Minutes for Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners Association
Association Business Meeting Held February 15, 2026

Call to Order

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association held an Association Business meeting via zoom. Rochelle Dornatt, President, presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 3:09p.m.

Opening Remarks:

Rochelle stated the theme for this year is to rebuild the bonds among the Master Gardeners and with VCE. This is to be the banner year with everyone working together and having fun.

Rochelle welcomed the return of EMG **Joanne Royaltey** and stated she looks forward to working side by side with Joanne.

.Attendees

53 active members and **3 guests** attended, a number sufficient to establish a quorum.

Guest Speakers

Rochelle welcomed the following guest speakers to our meeting:

- **John Thompson**, District Director, VCE Northern Shenandoah Valley
- **Mark Sutphin**, VCE Agricultural and Natural Resources Agent
- **Candace Delong**, VCE Consumer Horticulture Agent

- **John Thompson** gave an overview of his 27 year Cooperative Extension career, mentioning the large territory he serves and the twenty groups he supports across the region.

- **Mark Sutphin** provided a copy of his informative presentation clarifying areas commonly misunderstood. *See page 15 for the entire report.*

- **Candace Delong** presented a PowerPoint on the statistics and economic value NSVMGA accomplished in 2025. Candace recognized the efforts of John, Mark and Joann Royaltey in compiling the data mentioned in this presentation.

Question and answer period

-Prior to the question and answer segment, **Jennifer Flitton Adams** read the Community Agreement which reminds members to remain cordial and respectful of each other during discussions.

-Prior to the meeting, all EMGs were asked to submit their questions in the Zoom Chat. Jennifer read and presented these questions to the speakers.

Educational Presentation

Lori Dabinett, Extension Master Gardener, presented **'***The Path to Bee City USA***'** based on the journey Lori and other fellow EMGs, with assistance from community organizations and County government departments to have Clark County recognized as a Bee City USA community. Lori explained during the talk the Bee City Bee County USA initiative provides a framework for communities to work together to conserve native pollinators by increasing the abundance of native plants, providing nesting sites, and reducing the use of pesticides. She concluded by thanking **Barbara Bosserman** for her partnership and dedication.

Officer's Report

Vice President

Chris stated she is looking forward to developing peace, joy and fellowship within gardening.

Secretary

MaryJane Korrigan stated the January Association Business meeting minutes were emailed to the membership on January 29, 2026, and called for a vote to approve the minutes.

Approval of Minutes: Karen Kelly moved to approve the minutes. Rich Scankovich seconded the motion. ***Motion carried.***

Treasurer's Report

-**Jerry Jellets** reported we now have a total fund balance of **$87,622**. However, **$43,450** resides mostly in restricted funds except for the reserve which can be used. Also, we spent around **$3,000.73** in the month of January. The Bank is now working on the check that was deposited twice. *See page 16 of this report for the corrected **Exhibit C***

Approval of Treasurer's report: Jennifer Flitton Adams moved to approve the report. Karen Kelly seconded the motion. ***Motion carried.***

Approval of Closing documents: MaryJane Korrigan moved to approve the documents. Rich Sankovich seconded the motion. ***Motion carried.***

New Business

Rochelle offered a special recognition to the following EMGs:

-**Carol Belkin**, Frederick County Coordinator, and all the EMGs who helped make the Indoor Plant Clinic at Bowman Library a great success.
-**Leads Barbara Bossermand and Kathy Holcomb** were recognized for the very successful Seed Exchange at the Clark County Fairgrounds on Saturday, February 7, 2026.
-**Cindy Stauff** for her diligent work producing the creation of the Sunday edition of *TWIGS II*.

-Jerry Jellets submitted his resignation effective **April 19, 2026**. The Nominations Committee will reconvene to identify a replacement.

-NSVMGA EMGs have been invited to staff an **AAMG table at Seven Bends Nursery on Saturday, April 18, 2026 , 8:00am - 2:00p.m.** Check the Clark County Project list to volunteer on Better Impact.

Rochelle is currently forming a **Strategic Planning Committee** and seeks volunteers from Shenandoah and Warren Counties. At this time, Frederick, Page and Clark counties have representatives.

The **ByLaws Committee** will reconvene soon to address revisions requested by VCE.

In the spirit of reconnecting friendships, the Association will host several **social events:**

- A pot luck dinner at the Brewhouse in Middletown
- Attend a movie at the Alamo Drafthouse
- A pool party at Rochell's (hot dogs and hamburgers provided; attendees are invited to bring a side dish)
- A post-Gardenfest Celebration to honor the volunteers who gave their time and effort.

Carolyn Sinclair, co-lead of Gardenfest, announced potting soil pick up **February 20th at 9:00a.m.at Everglow**. Trucks are needed to pick up the bags of soil and transport to Jeff Burke's house where people are needed to unload and stack the bags.

Chris Jorgensen will distribute prizes to last month's trivia winners.

Chris Jorgensen announced the next Association meeting will be **March 15th** at **Laurel Ridge Community College**. Guest speaker is **Natalie Walker** from **Blue Ridge Prism.** The topic to be discussed is *Managing Invasive Plants.*

-Jerry Jellets reported next month the Treasuers reports may appear different because we are changing to **QuickBooks.**

-Jerry also reported that the finance committee is in the process of revising the reimbursement form. EMGs will download the request form and complete it out on line.

Old Business

VMGA Report
Jennifer Flitton Adams

Notes from the December meeting:

As part of its FY2026 budget, VMGA approved a $1,000.00 50-donor challenge gift as part of Virginia Tech's annual Giving Day. This is the fifth year we have made a challenge gift. Once 50 donations are made to the EMG Annual Fund, which supports the EMG Microgrant Program, a $1,000 challenge gift from

VMGA is unlocked. After Giving Day, that gift is transferred to the Virginia Master Gardener Association Endowed Fund, in support of the State Master Gardener Coordinator's office. You'll receive more information from VCE and from VMGA in January and February if you'd like to donate to the EMG Annual Fund during the 24-hours of giving day noon Feb 18 - noon Feb 19.

Ed Olsen reported that Master Gardener College will be a hybrid event held in Glen Allen, Va., June 26-28th. In person registration will be $295.00 which will include some meals, hybrid registration will be $60.00 for six sessions. Interns will be allowed to attend this year's College. The VMGA Meeting will be held on Friday evening, the 26th.

County Coordinator Reports

Clarke County Coordinator Report
Board Meeting
Sue Scarborough
February, 2026

Project Update:
1. Nature's Surprises at Clarke County Library - Our January class was well attended - we had 10 students! Two families attended who are home-schoolers, so hopefully we will get more families as the word gets out. The lesson was about Virginia winter birds, conifers and pinecones. We made pinecone birdfeeders.
2. Chet Hobart Park Garden - Ann Levy purchased beautiful new identification signs for The Chet Hobart Garden. We will install them in the Spring.
3. Seed Exchange - We are getting very excited about hosting the Seed Exchange. Barbara Bosserman and Kathy Holcomb have done a great job organizing the event. We have MANY seeds, so hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will have a big crowd. I will send out another reminder next week to remind EMG's to sign up.
4. Clarke County MG's will had our yearly calendar meeting in January at the VCE Extension Office in Berryville. We scheduled all our events and had an update on the Seed Exchange.
Upcoming Activities and Events:

Natures Surprises at CC Library - February 19
Final Seed Exchange ZOOM Meeting - Jan. 30
See Exchange - Feb. 7
Natures Surprises at CC Library - March 19

Frederick County Report Business Association Meeting
Carole Belkin, Frederick County Coordinator
Board Meeting for February 2, 2026

Bowman Annual Plant Clinic (2026)

The Bowman Annual Plant Clinic, held on Saturday, January 31 st , was a resounding success. Despite the frigid weather and the absence of the local groundhog, many dedicated community members bundled up and attended the event to expand their knowledge about houseplant care.

Clinic Attendance and Plant Giveaways
The clinic attracted approximately 147 attendees. In addition to providing valuable information, the event featured a generous giveaway, with participants receiving nearly twice as many plants as there were attendees.

Presentations and Topics
Throughout the clinic, our presenters engaged with more than 50 attendees on a variety
of horticultural topics. Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) Susan Matyuf and Joey Waters delivered an informative session on “House Plant Pests.” Pam Johnson presented the “Ask A Master Gardener Program” on behalf of Sharon McLellan, while Kathy Holcomb shared her expertise on “What to Plant When?”

Children’s Program
The children’s program, led by EMGs Tricia Boyd, Karen Kelly, Pam Lee, and Sue Scarborough, took place in the front lobby. Young participants enjoyed hands-on learning activities focused on plant propagation. Each child decorated their own pot and transplanted a baby plant to take home, fostering both creativity and responsibility in caring for new plants.

Welcome to NVC Consumer Horticultural Agent Candace DeLong
The event was especially memorable as Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) had the opportunity to meet Candace DeLong, the new NVC Consumer Horticultural Agent. Candace quickly became involved, assisting with recording attendance during the plant

presentations. During the “Ask A Master Gardener” (AAMG) session, she introduced herself to attendees and provided a brief overview of her role and responsibilities as the new Consumer Horticultural Agent.

A very special thank you to all the EMGs who came out to help make this a successful event!

Bowman Nature Surprise

On February 12 th , children are invited to participate in an engaging and educational workshop focused on the question: Why do plants make flowers? During this session, young learners will discover the fascinating world of pollinators and explore how various flowers attract different kinds of pollinators.

As part of the activity, children will have the opportunity to create their own vibrant tissue paper flowers. The process will involve stacking sheets of tissue paper, folding them accordion-style, securing the center with wire or a pipe cleaner, trimming the ends into rounded or pointed shapes to mimic petals, and gently separating each layer to form a fluffy, voluminous bloom.

We encourage families to join us for this fun and creative learning experience. To participate, please sign up on Better Impact or reach out to Extension Master Gardener leads Laura Best and Tricia Boyd for more information.

Frederick County Ask A Master Gardener (AAMG)

On January 5, 2026, the Ask A Master Gardener (AAMG)-Frederick Co. help desk gave a presentation for the Lake Frederick Conservation Club (LFCC). The LFCC reached out to our help desk after we helped them last year with alternative native plant selections that would meet Frederick Counties’ developer standards for landscaping new communities. Working with Bill Moore, the LFCC lead, it was recognized that the Lake Frederick community specifically, and others in their LFCC, were unaware of the resources Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and AAMG can provide, so we were asked to hold an on-site AAMG helpdesk event and give a presentation of garden topics to the LFCC group.

As such, we gave an hour-plus PowerPoint presentation on who VCE Extension Master

Gardeners are, what they do, and how our AAMG group can help them. The presentation continued with a presentation on winter gardening topics including garden planning; preparation for the upcoming growing season; pruning, and so forth. That was followed by a discussion of the importance of using native plants and their effect on our ecosystems, winter gardening for birds, etc. We rounded up our PowerPoint presentation with a discussion on proper mulching techniques (no more volcano mulching and so forth), and winter sowing of native plants. After the PowerPoint presentation, we had three hands-on demonstration stations where we showed and explained: proper pruning techniques; winter sowing techniques; and how to properly plant and mulch trees, shrubs, and perennials. We also fielded many diverse questions on horticultural topics at each of our demo stations. Due to time constraints, we didn't get to the formal question and answer session of our PowerPoint presentation which included questions asked of our team prior to the event. However, our team did prepare formal answers to those questions and included them in the PowerPoint slides. Bill Moore stated that he was going to distribute the entire PowerPoint presentation and the answers we prepared to his entire LFCC group. In all, we had seven EMGs working at the event including: Kate Reed, Teresa Miller, PamJohnson, Pam Lees, Amanda Scheetz, Dorothy Ponte, and Sharon McLellan. There were 48 LFCC attendees plus Bill Moore, the LFCC coordinator (direct contacts). The PowerPoint presentations and answers to the garden questions will be distributed to over 300 LFCC members. The presentation was part of AAMG's effort to make their services more accessible and visible to the residents of Frederick County.

That's all folks!

NSVMGA
VCE EMG
FEBRUARY 2026 PAGE COUNTY REPORT

Our plant clinic and educational talks will continue in 2026.
We are continuing and expanding the Page County Fair as a project.
We are discussing the best way to reinstate the PACA Community Gardens as an EMG project and look forward to working with VCE agents to make this happen.
Our rescheduled annual unit meeting is March 1, 2026 at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy M. Reed
Page County Coordinator

Shenandoah County Report for NSVMGA

Board Meeting and Business Meeting
Cindy Stauff
February 2026

Project Updates and General Information

1) AAMG in Woodstock is open for business this coming Friday. Rochelle would like to organize and take inventory.

2) Our Shenandoah County EMG meeting to kick off for the year will be Saturday, February 21 st , at Cave Ridge Vineyard. We will have an informal gathering from 1PM to 3PM. This meeting will review the progress of projects in Shenandoah County and establish a strategic plan for the coming year.

3) The South Street Barn Farmer's Market is under new management. And it will have a new name! Paugh's Farm now leads the market. It will still be held every Saturday from 9AM to 1PM. We are good to go there with no vendor fee. The contact number is 540 740-9076.

4) TWIG II is stalled at the moment by difficulties with my computer and email. I am working on it. I will send out the latest edition as soon as the problem is resolved.

Warren County Report
Board / Association Business Meeting
Susan Matyuf
February 2026

Reports of programs:

1) **Samuels Nature Explorers:** (leads Dianne Lacy & Emma Bricker, co-leads) Friday, January 23. The first children's program of 2026 was a great success on Friday, January 23 rd at Samuels Library. We had about a dozen participants learn about the importance of worms in the garden. The next program will be on May 22, 2026.

2) **Samuels Library Indoor Plant Demonstration and Education:** (Joey Waters & Lisa Heim, co-leads) Our first of the year adult education program, "Unlocking Seed Catalogs: Codes,Symbols, & Fine Print" was rescheduled due to the weather to February 3, 2026, 6:15-8:00pm (class 6:30-7:30pm) at Samuels Library. Our Walkabout Wednesdays are scheduled, and we are discussing ways to increase interaction with the public for these events.

3) **Warren Heritage Demo Garden:** (Katherine Rindt & Karen Leonard, co-leads) - awaiting spring!

4) **Ask a Master Gardener Information Project:** (Susan Matyuf & Christine Dagorn, co-leads). We are meeting with the organizers of the Community Garden (Citizens Helping Each Other) for assistance in planning the garden. The meeting will be February 19, 2026, 10am at Samuels Library.
We are hoping to develop this into a partnership and project between VCE EMGs and CHEO, and Dave Rushton has volunteered to co-lead the project with Susan Matyuf, once it is proposed and approved. Christine is answering any inquiries that come to the office or via email during the winter.

Volunteers for our in-person AAMG desk at the Warren County Extension Office are encouraged to sign up in Better Impact. Susan and Christine are working on an easy and efficient intake system that will help us track contacts & requests, and better help the community. We have training dates available (and just a good time to get together!): March 16, 23 or 30 th , 10am-11am at the Extension Office. RSVP via Better Impact ��
5) **Habitat for Humanity (Warren County)** (Dianne Lacy, lead) Susan Matyuf learned from a Habitat for Humanity Board Member that the Osage Street project,

which includes a single-family home and town houses, should be completed in early spring.

6) **Lone Pine Day (Warren Co. Earth Day) Celebration:** Mark your calendars for April 26, 2026 for our participation in Lone Pine Day.

7) **Browntown Redbud Festival:** Also, mark your calendars for the Redbud Festival this year onApril 18, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Matyuf, Warren County Coordinator

Committee Reports

Cultivating Community Committee:
Jennifer Flitton Adams
The committee has a meeting scheduled for Feb 3 at 1pm on Zoom. The committee would welcome additional members! Please contact Jennifer Flitton Adams if interested.

Facebook Report – 4th Quarter 2025
Jennifer Flitton Adams

Reach:
Jenn: 19,977 + 56 J– IG
Elaine: 5048 + 88 IG
Joanne: 139
Rich S: 872
Laura B: 129
Susan: 572
VCE (Mark): 1972
TOTAL: 28,709 FB; 144 IG (I just began to link FB and IG in December)

Outstanding reach:
Post on native blueberries – 3920
Posts on Seed Exchange – 1520, 1545
Post on Plant Clinic – 2369
Pruning in January – 1178

Adjournment

Rochelle Dornatt called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Jennifer Flitton Adams moved to adjourn the meeting. Karen Kelly seconded the motion. Motion Carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:43p.m.

Respectfully submitted by *MaryJane Korrigan*

Date Approved: March 15, 2026
MaryJane Korrigan,
NSVMGA Secretary

Attachments

Copy of VCE Agent Mark Surphin report given on February 15, 2026.

1. Mark introduce John and thank him for joining us at the meeting

2. Mark thank the NSVMGA members for their efforts to get to a signed MOU. Note that one final piece remains incomplete, addressing some items in the most recent NSVMGA Bylaw revisions (approved July 2025 without VCE comments in the middle of MOU discussions).
-Mark, John, Joanne met with the NSVMGA Executive Board August 29, 2025 for ongoing MOU discussions and to express concerns with the July 2025 bylaw amendments. At that meeting, the association President and Executive Board agreed to address three specific bylaw items.

-Mark and Candace met again on Friday with the NSVMGA Executive Board to address this outstanding matter. The NSVMGA Board agreed to bring this forward to the next NSVMGA Board meeting and advertise amendments for voting at the April NSVMGA meeting to finalize this matter as soon as possible.

-This is the final item remaining outstanding to formalize the partnership agreement between VCE and NSVMGA to settle the MOU. Again we thank each of you for taking care of these matters.

-This will allow the NSVMGA to utilize up to 10% of net funds raised through VCE NSV EMG projects towards High School Scholarships. I know there is interest to find new ways to raise funds. I would remind you that public education and outreach is the role of VCE, so such efforts should not be part of these additional association activities.

-I would also remind you that the EMG program is about horticultural and environmental educational programming to the public and supporting VCE carry out this mission should be primary. Scholarship efforts are not excluded at this time, but are not part of the EMG programming mission and should be ancillary activities if the association so wishes to pursue such work. It’s not appropriate to set the association up in a manor that is competitive to the VCE NSV EMG unit.

3. Mark thank Joanne…5 years helping the region with SLF, leading the NSV EMG Unit, and excited to have you remain a VCE volunteer with the NSV EMG program

4. Mark introduced Candace…Candace began Jan 26 as an ANR agent in the VCE Frederick Office. Her focus will be serving the NSV focused on consumer horticulture educational

programming. Of course a large part of the is the VCE NSV EMG program, so Candace serves as the lead agent with that program. She is the supervisor over projects and volunteers and will utilize the core leadership team of county coordinators to guide the unit, pulling in the NSVMGA executive board when appropriate.

-Candace will serve as a leader, supporter, and work to empower the unit, projects, and volunteers. She will take feedback from EMG volunteers as well as the local association but ultimately she has the final say for the direction of the unit work. As with all Extension programming, she is taking feedback from many sources…in addition to volunteers she is being informed by locality administrators, elected officials, residents, community organizations, program guidance from the state EMG office, policy guidance from the district VCE office, and overall direction from the state VCE office.

5. Candace further introduce herself and offer 2025 programming highlights

Treasurer Report received from Jerry Jellets noting the corrected Exhibit C

Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners Association
Exhibit C
ID #86-1104034
Recap Programs
Year Ended December 31, 2025

Description		Revenue	Costs / Adj	Net
Self Funded Programs				
Garden Fest				
Sales		$17,573.00		17,573.00
Expenses			-8,058.65	-8,058.65
Profit				**9,514.35**
Class of 2024				
Student Fees Collected		$5,325.00		5,325.00
Expenses			-5,324.45	-5,324.45
Cost of Project				**0.55**
Scholarships Restricted Programs				
Scholarships for Master Gardeners	CD X1294 5/15/2026		10,000.00	10,000.00
Scholarships Students		$25,072.41		25,072.41
Five Scholarships Awarded			-7,500.00	-7,500.00
Total Scholarship Students	CD X8147 9/12/2026			**17,572.41**
Reserve Account		$51,768.51		0.00
Reserve	CD X8220 10/12/2026		38,322.17	38,322.17
Money Market X1993			5,006.13	5,006.13
Transfer to Scholarship for Master Gardeners			-10,000.00	-10,000.00
				43,328.30