

**JCC/MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING**  
**October 16, 2009**

**MAJOR DECISIONS MADE:** None

**PRESENT:** D. Banks, J. Giffin, C. Fryer, D. Heath, P. Janot, L. Lucas, J. Millin,  
J. Pressly, N. Pressly, L. Wever, B. Sutton, L. Viancour

**Reid/Shields Garden Project** Discussion with Laura Viancour and Becky Sutton

There are two gardens included in the project: flower and vegetable gardens using 40 volunteers. . This year 1100 guests were served in the “Meet the Gardener” tours given at the Reid twice a week, April – September. School groups and teachers seem to enjoy the contact with the gardeners. New items include heirloom green peppers and heirloom cotton, which is usually a field crop at the Great Hopes Plantation.. This year they experienced a major squirrel problem, which resulted in few perfect green peppers. Master Gardeners are a major help with the seed saving efforts. The gardens are great examples of self sustainable, educational gardening. New interns each year help with the natural attrition volunteers. Training sessions are provided by Colonial Williamsburg gardeners as a “pay back” to the volunteers.

Becky Sutton is helpful as liaison; she does any paper work and keeps track of MG volunteer hours. Becky commented that they are planning to purchase a garden hose caddy to be used in the gardens.

The plum tree that is to be planted in memory of Fay Anderson has been ordered for Shields orchard. The MG board will be informed when it is available so that an appropriate planting ceremony can be arranged. Memorial plaques are not used at Colonial Williamsburg.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension Representative** Doris Heath

HVAC work begins at the extension office on October 26, complicated by a cement seam in the roof. The entry way will be blocked initially and visitors to the office will need to call ahead to gain admittance. For two to four days during demolition no one will be able to work in the office. They expect about 30 days of disruption during which employees may need to work from home. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by December 1. They will have mail access so that MG applications for the next class can be collected. The Help Desk is presently being done by Master Gardeners from their own homes, so there should be no conflict with that. There will be a note in the MG newsletter concerning this disruption.

## **September 18 Board Minutes**

The minutes from the September meeting were approved.

### **Virginia Master Gardeners Association October 3 Meeting** Jim and Nelda Pressly

Reports at the meetings have now been replaced by a training session: the September topic was “Brag Boards”, and in October the topic was “Risk Management”. This new approach is favored over the individual reporting used in the past. Jr. Master Gardeners will be the next topic. Master Gardener College will be suggested as an appropriate topic.

Dave Close thought the on line Risk Management training presented in JCC in September was innovative, but a new experience for him.

Virginia Tech is looking for Master Gardeners to write numbered publications.

A State Records System will be purchased in California by the end of the year to replace the present system. JCC/W (Art Gustafson) will be able to enter hours data directly into the new system.

The 2009 revision of the Handbook will cost \$65.00. Master Gardeners are needed to review the content.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

The treasurer has applied for a Virginia Tax Exempt certificate. It is understood that personal purchases made in behalf of MG and reimbursed will not be tax exempt. It was suggested that a debit card would be useful for large purchases so that taxes may be saved. Linda Wever will look into the possibility of obtaining a debit card for the MG Association.

Mattey’s Garden project is planning to build a larger shed, one third of which will be partitioned off for MG storage for supplies needed for the Farmer’s Market and other projects. Two thirds of the cost of the shed will be from community fund raising. A reasonable estimate of cost has not been made yet; the Matter’s Garden project chair has suggested that MG share one third of the cost. This will be discussed when an estimate is available.

Many of the project budgets have been submitted to the treasurer, but many still have not been submitted

The 2010 budget will be discussed at the next board meeting and will go to the membership at the December general meeting.

## **VP AREA UPDATES**

### **A. Projects   Jeanne Millin**

Jeanne has set up a spreadsheet to track budgets and year end reviews. End of year reports will be used to help make decisions about the retention of projects.

The Virginia Native Plant Society may take over responsibility for the Melissa's Meadow..

There is a question whether the Colonial Williamsburg garden tour hours should be submitted under E16 Greenhouse and outreach. Do they meet the MG mission of education? Jeanne will bring a proposal to the board regarding this question.

Project leaders are being asked to write an article for the newsletter to encourage members to diversify which projects they work for.

The two new projects, County Fair and Self Watering Containers, both have a leader and an assistant.

### **B. Administration   J. Giffin**

Membership has two issues: (1) putting together a new roster with updates  
(2) developing an inactive policy

#### **Graduation/Awards Dinner**

The committee is trying to plan an interesting dinner with recognition, but not too much administrative business. Several ideas and suggestions were discussed. It is recognized that a large part of the evening is the graduation of the interns, but there is a desire to help interns learn more about the projects. In the past, awards have been given to boost attendance, but the awards did not have the desired effect. The slide show that was presented at the last dinner was well received and it was decided to do that again, but have it shown on a screen. It was suggested that columnist Kathy Van Mullenkom from the Daily Press be asked to speak. It was also suggested to ask a member of the county board to present awards and graduation certificates. Genrose Lashinger will be asked about presenting music at the dinner. Dave Banks and Charlie Clapper are in charge of the dinner and will take suggestions under consideration.

### **C. Internal Education Carol Fryer**

The training class for 2010 is being planned; speakers are lined up and field trips are being organized. Dave Close's tape for Risk Management will be used. An article about the new class application appeared in the Gazette and the application is on the web site. In addition, it is being announced in churches to help broaden our market. Twenty applicants are on the waiting list.

A grant program is being planned for the class of 2011. Carol Fryer and John Giffin are researching how other MG associations handle this. The process is important so time will be taken planning how best to handle this.

Carol will be collating all Risk Management training forms that have been handed in at meetings or brought to the VCE office.

Project presentations at general meetings need to be brief so that speakers can start on time. These presentations are most effective at meetings when there is a minimal amount of business to be accomplished.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Light duty jobs for those who have physical limitations were discussed. Ordering MG T-shirts, working with the membership roster were a couple of ideas. Linda reminded the board that Art Gustafson sends updated hours to each member quarterly, so if hours are needed, members are aware in time to make up those hours fulfilling these jobs.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The VCE Leadership Council was attended by Linda Lucas. Charlie Clapper was the former representative. It is a county wide council that meets three times a year and needs MG representation. Dave Banks agreed to attend. This meeting should be put in the job description for the past president.

John Giffin discussed the difficult time the Nominating Committee has in finding a new president each year. He suggested a by law change to add a president elect, allow all board terms to be two years except the president who would serve a one year term plus one year as past president. Administrative duties would be assigned to the president elect. The president elect would begin half way through the term of the president. John will bring a proposal to the November board meeting.

Dave Banks reported that The Botanical Garden will get a water line in January and suggested that MG might consider doing a demonstration garden project at the Botanical Garden. Dave will discuss this with them and bring us a recommendation. This may or

may not replace the existing project of conducting tours for school children, which has not been active.

A possible restructuring of board meetings was suggested. It was proposed that board meetings could be limited to one hour, leaving an hour to discuss one specific issue. This would provide more in depth problem solving time. The time would be structured with an objective and questions pertinent to the issue to guide discussion. No action was taken, but it was recognized that not every board meeting would need to be structured in this manner.

The Plant Sale was discussed. It was suggested that an entire committee with co chairs is needed, not just a chairperson. There is also the issue of using commercial plants versus MG propagated plants. John will contact Susan Giandomenico.

The meeting adjourned at 10:59.