

**JCC/W MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING**  
**September 18, 2009**

**MAJOR DECISIONS MADE:**

Self Watering Container Project will be presented to the full membership in October  
Susan Giandomenico will head the Plant Sale in 2010  
The treasurer will apply for a VA tax exemption.

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

**COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

Doris Heath, Cooperative Extension Representative

Ms. Heath began by thanking Master Gardeners because all their activities help to make the Cooperative Extension shine. She continued by commenting on printing requests that come into the Extension office and stated that because of recent budget cuts of 15%, there is a need that printing habits need to change. The Extension Office budget for copying has been drastically reduced. She suggested that printing may be done more cheaply at Virginia Tech and that it may be possible in some cases for Master Gardeners to request a display copy in color and then minimal copies in black and white.

She continues to discuss budget issues with James City County supervisors about Turf Love. The Extension budget for Turf Love support was also cut drastically for the current fiscal year.

**VICE PRESIDENT UPDATE**

**Projects, Jeanne Millin**

The semi-annual Project Chairs meeting took place September 17, 2009 with twenty people attending. Comments on specific projects follow:

- Help Desk – books are needed for the library. (Note: We have a \$100 in the budget which can be spent on books)
- Diagnostic Clinic – still a VCE Special Project under Doris Heath, may reorganize
- CW Greenhouse – the 2010 training class will return to the greenhouse for a field trip on propagation; but it was decided not to include the CW Greenhouse project on the core project list for 2010 interns since there is a very limited interaction with the public.

Evaluating Projects - A mission- oriented form is available to project managers for evaluating existing projects. There are questions about whether Habitat for Humanity and Melissa's Meadow demonstrate adequate educational outreach.

Self-Watering Container Project Proposal – Dennis Wool

The focus of this project is to promote sound horticultural practices for persons who desire the vegetable gardening experience but who may be limited by space, physical capacity, or homeowner association restrictions. Master Gardeners Dennis Wool and Jack Gross, Interns Roger Evans and Nancy Carnegie will provide workshops and demonstrations using “raw materials” found at local building supply or box stores to demonstrate container gardening, rainwater collection, and composting. The project is the result of creative collaboration between the Incredible Edibles project and workshops conducted by Dennis and Jack about self-watering containers.

It was moved and seconded that the project be brought before the membership at the October general meeting.

**Administration John Giffin**

Roster Update There is a new roster in preparation by Susan Giandomenico.

Plant Sale Committee Susan Giandomenico will lead the Plant Sale for 2010. She will be able to take time off from her job in time to prepare for it.

Membership Susan Giandomenico is preparing a new roster, but has announced she will retire from her responsibilities for Membership.

Fund Raising/Marketing Susan Giandomenico has retired from this position. Ruth Schultz is assisting with the LOGO and ordering of MG clothing.

State Tax Exemption Now that the association has 501(c)3 status, MG needs to apply for state tax exemption for purchases made by the association. Linda Wever will do this. This is not to be confused with the association's paying state taxes on items sold by us (plant sale, birdhouses, containers, etc.) We will begin doing this in 2010 since sales are expected to occur on numerous occasions throughout the year.

## **Internal Education Carol Fryer**

### Training Class for 2010

Carol and John will work on developing a policy and organization for offering a scholarship of \$150 for a 2010 participant if possible. They will research other organizations such as other MG groups, VMGA, VCE to see how scholarships are handled. A notebook of area organizations with contact information is available at the library. .

The 2010 application, now on line, includes a survey of the talents of prospective members of the new class.

On line Risk Management Training will take place at the Extension office September 23 at 2:00 for those who still need training update. The hope is to record this training so that it can be made available to those unable to attend on the 23rd. Carol Fryer will follow through on this.

The July Minutes were approved with corrections

The Treasurer reported on funds still available from the 2009 budget for Master Gardeners, the two Stewards programs and for the MG Training Class.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Reserves Task Force It was decided that a Reserves Task Force was not needed at this time since reserve funds are not excessive. Dave Banks explained that contributions were not budgeted in 2009. He suggested checking back to see what requests for contributions were made this year in order to decide at a future board meeting if some of these requests could be granted from existing reserves.

Board Job Descriptions Linda Lucas, John, and Carol will discuss changes in the job descriptions in cooperation with Jeanne.

Vacant Positions We are still without an Historian. Although we are still without a State Records Keeper, Susan Giandomenico, before she retires from Membership, will try to update the unit roster on the State System. There may be a way to enter total hours for individuals on a yearly basis to bring the system up to date for our unit. Linda L. will continue to discuss this with Art Gustafson.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

2010 Budget Time-Line Linda Wever stated that she needs budget requests in October so that she can develop a budget by November.

2010 Graduation/Awards Dinner The dinner will be January 14, 2010 and Dave Banks and Charlie Clapper will serve as chairs for the event.

Awards Committee Nelda and Jim Pressly and John Giffin will chair the committee but there was discussion about how to define and handle the awards at the dinner. Individual awards versus hours recognition was discussed or whether to have a speaker or not were some questions raised. Individuals should forward ideas to John.

## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sunshine Activity Pat Janot announced that individual illnesses have been recognized with a note from the membership. When there is a death, a Peace Lilly has been sent unless other specific plans are made from the membership as in the case of Fay Anderson recently. Master Gardener (members who work at the Shields Garden will be planting a tree in Fay's memory in the orchard at the Reid Garden. A general announcement will be made when a date is set.

Water Stewards A request has been made for supervision of WM students planting around the Powhatan Plantation Stream Restoration. It was suggested that Water Stewards could supervise this work. Linda L. will contact Sue Liddell.