

# Henrico Master Gardener Association Board Meeting

Minutes: June 1, 2011

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Barry Hayes at 1:00 p.m.

**Minutes:** The previous month's Association meeting minutes have been reviewed and approved. The last Board meeting minutes are on the website at [Henricomga.org](http://Henricomga.org)

## **Reports from Committees and Officers**

**Treasurer:** Doug Green reported that the Association had \$1,112.99 in the checking account and \$6,410.50 in three CDs for a total of \$7,523.49 at the end of May. Doug is also showing a unallocated expenditure of 1,000 for the scholarship fund. Doug presented an update on the 2011 budget and a 2012 proposed budget which results in about a \$2605.00 deficit for the year. Doug motioned and Beverly Cochrane seconded that the budget be approved for presentation to the Association next week. The Board approved the budget.

The Association received \$68.00 from Brent & Becky's bulbs and this money will be donated to the Virginia Tech MG Coordinator fund. Lisa Sanderson reported that the Association of Garden Clubs donated \$355.00 to the Junior Master Gardeners program.

**1st Vice President:** Sandra Walton reported that last months garden visits went well and she recommends that we do visits every year. In July, Lisa Elliot, a designer at Sneeds Nursery, will do a program on container gardening. Sneeds will provide most materials but Sandra moved that the Board approve an additional \$30.00 to be spent on the July program. Doug Green seconded and the Board approved the motion. For the August program, Tom Smith, Director of the "Flora of Virginia" project will speak to the organization. This project will produce the first complete documentation of Virginia flora since the mid-1700s. In September, George Longest will present a program on Gillette gardens and Grace Harrison will cover seed propagation in November.

**2nd Vice President:**

**Corresponding Secretary:**

**Master Gardening Training:** Jim Smith reported that we have 18 new MGs from last years class. Jim has prepared a tentative schedule for 2012 and is recommending that we reconsider a couple of the speakers. The post-training evaluation meeting identified a need for publicity so we can attract more applicants. Jim will be passing the committee chairmanship to Grace Harrison for next year.

**Helpline:**

**Plant Clinics:**

**Service, Recognition and Historical:** Joyce Brannon circulated several pictures to the Board from the plant swap and recent garden tours.

### **S.M.A.R.T. Lawns & Tree Smarts:**

**JMG:** Faye Derkits and her committee finished this year's events last week. The spring was busy with 31 classes at 8 different locations, one teacher workshop, one school fair, the Lewis Ginter plant sale and field days at two elementary schools.

### **Special Events:**

**Scholarship Committee:** Ann Dutton reported that one of the scholarship winners, Jim Proffitt, will attend the Association meeting next week and she requested that we give him time to speak about his experience. There has been no other action on the committee. The committee will consider a second-year student in the horticulture program at J. Sargeant Reynolds for the coming year.

**MG Education Fair:** Barry Hayes opened the floor for comments and recommendations about our participation at future Lewis Ginter plant sales. The attendance at our presentations during the last plant sale was low. However, the JMG tent had 200+ contacts, which included 60 children and several teachers. The JMG experience is that hands-on demonstrations draw people and Faye recommended on-going demonstrations to attract more gardeners. Doug Green suggested a tent of experts to answer questions and Pat Baskind recommended that classes be on scrolling monitors that people can watch on their own time. Ann Dutton suggested that our booths would be a great place to have applications for the MG training and that we use next week's meeting to recruit people for the fall event. Lisa mentioned that Lewis Ginter will need to be contacted about any change in plans so they can advertise the event. Barry mentioned that we need banners or signs to increase our visibility.

### **Finance:**

### **Hospitality:**

**Communication/ Publicity:** Patty Campbell has identified a number of stories to pursue for publicity. Patty suggested that we put more event pictures on our website because it shows us as an active, healthy organization.

**Membership:** Beverly Cochrane reported that we picked up two new members at the plant swap for a total of 94 members.

**Extension Report:** Lisa Sanderson reported that Master Gardening College (June 21-26) registration is open and that several Association members have registered. Lisa also reported that Linda Lang has volunteered to coordinate the Armour House help desk so it may be up and running soon.

## **Old Business:**

**New Business:** Barry Hayes opened discussion about the agenda for next week's Annual Meeting. Board members were reminded that committee Chairs need to present committee activities for the past year and provide a written summary of those activities to Barry before or during the meeting. Another agenda item is providing MGs the opportunity to sign up for committees, to meet as a group and to decide on a chair for the group. There was consensus that the committees need to be open to selecting new chairs. There is also an option to be a chair-in-training and work with the current chair to learn the role. Barry Hayes mentioned that he will also report on the two major themes from the Board retreat. A final agenda item is to vote on the proposed dues changes and slate of officers.

Beverly Cochrane recommended that we consider creating and selling a MG cookbook, possibly with accompanying articles on how to grow vegetables used in the recipes. We could add MG events in the book to advertise our organization. Beverly showed several examples from other organizations.

Board members reviewed changes to the MG handbook and by-laws. The changes were gathered by Peggy Lowry and the book will be updated by the Extension office.

The next Board meeting is July 6, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. by Barry Hayes

Attending: Carol Baker, Pat Baskind, Vickie Bell, Joyce Brannon, Judy Burton, Patty Campbell, Beverly Cochrane, Faye Derkits, Ann Dutton, Doug Green, Grace Harrison, Barry Hayes, Peggy Lowry, Lisa Sanderson, Jim Smith, Sandra Walton

Vickie Bell, Recording Secretary