

Hanover Master Gardeners Association End of Year Report for 2016

Overview

Hanover Master Gardeners have completed another successful year.

Staffing

We had a temporary Staff Volunteer Coordinator for several months. Angelette Pryor joined the staff, filling a permanent part-time position in August.

MG Volunteers

As of 1/30/17 we had 82 volunteers who had entered hours into VMS.

Handbook

The new HMGA handbook was launched early in January of 2016. The handbook is intended to be a resource about the organization and policies of our association.

Documentation

- We began using an Excel spreadsheet to keep track of help desk inquiries
 - Easy lookup for previous questions on a particular topic
 - Able to provide a breakdown of monthly statics
 - More legible than handwritten log
- Our official project proposal form has been filled out for all current projects and are filed in VMS
 - Laura has reviewed and approved all but one (pending)
 - It will now be easier to update and review on a yearly basis
- Several job descriptions have been created and reviewed by appropriate person
- Some SOPs have been created
- We have begun using Dropbox for shared files

Strategic Planning

A committee was formed and had three meetings to consider where we are and where we want to be. A visioning statement had been done in 2006 but nothing since then.

- We reviewed current projects
- We sent out to our HMG Contacts list a Volunteer Motivations Survey
- The results from the survey were compiled and shared with the same group who participated in the survey
- We have already begun plans to implement some of the points raised
- We are developing a survey for residents of Hanover to determine community needs

Website

Our website has been used minimally in 2016. Plans are being developed to expand the usage.

Officers for 2016

President	Betty Jane Hughes
Vice President	Suzie Knuth
Secretary	Wayne Bryant
Treasurer	Pat Reyes
Immediate Past President	Buz Sawyer

Project / Program Leaders

Adult Education	Emily Giafortoni
Advanced MG / Land Care Steward	Linda Hazelwood
Ag Day with Third Grade Students	Diane Deane
Announcement Board	Dave Myers
Communications	OPEN
Education Grants	Beckey Watson
Gardening at Friendly Care Day School	Juanita Wrenn
Giving Tree, LTD.	Pat Reyes
Hanover Adult Daycare	Val Kish
HMGWebpage	Muffi Grinnell
Home Gardening Series	Ed Wall
Lewis Ginter Children's Garden	Barb Sawyer
Meeting Hospitality	Linda Hazelwood
Meeting Speaker	Suzie Knuth
Membership	Liz Campbell
Mentoring Program	Lisa Willis
MG Help Desk	Dave Myers
MG Training Class	Lorre Hyatt
MGs at VA State Fair	Christy Brennan
MWEE	Pattie Bland
Pamunkey Library Spring Break Events	Rhonda Searles
Plant Clinics	Ian Sutton
Plant Sale & Garden Fair	Joel Klein
Publicity	Muffi Grinnell
Scotchtown	Jim Stewart / Doris Gullotta
Tomato Festival - Pole Green Park	Ed Wall
VMGA Representative	Christy Brennan
VMS Administrator	Liz Campbell
Web Master	Muffi Grinnell
Writers Group	Emily Gionfortoni
Youth Public Education	OPEN

2016 Association Meetings

Date	Speaker	Topic
February 5	Linda McBride	Passion for Pollinators
May 6	Brent Heath	Combining Bulbs in Mixed Borders
September 11	Carl Spike Knuth	What's in Your Backyard
December 9	Bill Cox	Bring Taste Back to the Table

2016 Member-Led Meetings

Date	Speaker	Topic
March 11	Dave Myers	Dave's Garden
July 15	Val Kish	Gardening as we Age
October 7	Laura Maxey-Nay	Entomology 101
November 4	Dan Kline	Making Bio Char

Rather than hold all meetings in the Mechanicsville area we decided to try having one of our member led meetings at the Ashland Library. There seems to be a better crowd there and we will look at having more meetings for next year in the Ashland area.

Our meeting scheduled for September had to be rescheduled due to a conflict at the church. Unfortunately this meeting was not well attended.

Educational Grants Program

Six Hanover schools were awarded grants for a total of \$2,630.

- Battlefield Park Elementary – purchase geo-dome greenhouse for K-5 for horticulture experiments
- John. M. Gandy Elementary – start an after school ecology club
- Lee-Davis High School – establish an educational step garden with rain barrel irrigation system
- Beaverdam Elementary – to grow wild celery for aquatic nursery in James River
- Mechanicsville Elementary – create an eastern box turtle habitat with native berries and worms for food source and composting
- Cool Springs Elementary – explore as junior botanists to learn about plants, seeds, and life cycles in school garden plots

Plant Clinics

No one was willing to take on the role of Plant Clinic Coordinator. I used data from VMS to determine the people who had participated in the most Plant Clinics. I invited them to a committee meeting to plan for 2016. We reviewed the clinics from 2015 along with the number

of people attending. We decided to continue each event only if someone was willing to be the coordinator. The coordinator was responsible for making contacts with our partner organization, determining dates, be the contact name in VMS and follow through to make sure enough people had signed up. I volunteered to enter all clinics into VMS. A few other opportunities surfaced during the year which we only accepted after finding someone to be responsible for that event. There were a few glitches but it was mostly successful.

We continued to use the remote locations for materials storage. One of our tents was beyond repair. I purchased two new tents and set up two more plant clinic boxes so that we had enough for all contingencies. I ordered more banners so that we had enough for each set of equipment.

Due to some fixed dates of some events and others we scheduled we actually managed to cover four clinics on one Saturday. Since we did not have interns this year we did not have to be concerned with making sure we had a mix of MGs and interns. We adjusted the number of required volunteers so that some of the less popular events might only have two volunteers.

We discussed how we could have more “show and tell” displays to attract attention. Ania made a scale model of a rain barrel and Lisa made a scale model of a cold frame. Other displays are still pending.

We continued to ask that the contact list be sent to the office to be entered into VMS.

Plant Sale

The Plant Sale this year was very successful. We had available for sale the perennials that Sandy McDougal had given us the previous fall. Although not all of our plants survived we still had a large number of plants to sell that had cost us nothing.

We tried several different ways of advertising our Plant Sale and then did a survey with our customers to see how they knew about the sale. Our best advertisement seems to be the banners out in front of the church for the week before the sale.

After selling additional plants from Sandy Pence’s driveway we donated what was left to Lewis Ginter for their plant sale.

We were not able to get donations of perennial plants from Sandy’s Plants this year. Instead we invited our members to divide their plants and either send or bring them to Pat’s house for a potting party. We managed to find enough used pots but did have to buy some potting soil. About 12 people helped with potting the plants and most stayed to share in a covered dish lunch on Pat’s patio. Most of us took plants home to “baby sit” until next spring’s plant sale.

Milestone Achievement Awards

Sixteen members received Milestone Achievement Awards for 2016 as follows:

250 Hours – Jane Copeland, Juliane Giver

500 Hours – Diane Dean, Betty Dirickson, Ann Frost, Betty Jane Hughes, Jim Stewart,
Ian Sutton, Bonnie Weber-Lehman

1,000 Hours – Lorre Hyatt, Juanita Wrenn

2,000 Hours – Nancy Butler, Val Kish

3,000 Hours – Christy Brennan

4,000 Hours – Emily Gianfortoni

Scotchtown

HMGA worked on reestablishing two beds with the plants that would have been there in the 18th century. Donations of plants were solicited from members and other local sources.

Special Awards

We were honored to participate in the Hanover County Volunteer Awards event. I had nominated HMGA for the Spirit of Team and although we did not win we at least made the community more aware that we exist.

Laura nominated me for the Spirit of One and I won the award. Both nominations helped to tell our story to the community.

Training

We were unable to find enough students to fill a training class for 2016. For multiple reasons we had decided to try a daytime class. Although we lost some potential students who could not attend classes during the day we gained some interest from those who did not want to drive at night.

We have been recruiting and interviewing potential trainees for 2017. It appears we will have a class of about 11 students.

Statistics

Youth Projects

Library Spring Break (Pollinators) - April <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 volunteers• 67 hours	Educational Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 schools for a total of \$2,630
MWEE – April <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7 volunteers• 90 hours	Roots and Shoots <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8 volunteers• 106 hours
Ag Day - October <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 volunteers• 46 hours	Total contacts for all youth to include projects and other events – 2,404

Adult Day Care

- Twice monthly visits March – October
- 9 Volunteers
- 88 Hours
- 283 Contacts

Speakers Bureau – does not include training classes, member meetings or HGS classes

- 6 Speakers
- 7 Presentations

Help Desk

- 11 Volunteers
- 403 Hours
- 46 Emails
- 195 Phone calls
- 12 Samples
- 301 Contacts

Home Gardening Series

Classes were held at Hanover Public Libraries

Date	Presenter	Topic	# Contacts
2/2/16	Dave Myers	Garden Tools	12
2/16/16	Joel Klein	Vegetables	29
2/13/16	Bobbi Jo Jackson	Learn To Prune	34
2/27/17	Ed Wall	Growing Seeds Indoors	33
3/12/16	Joel Klein	Beautify Your World With Flowers	22
3/26/16	Ray Leffler	How To Make Compost	24
4/2/16	Jeannie Waltman	Landscape Design	5
4/9/16	Jim Stewart	Berries & Fruit	22
4/23/16	Diane Deane	Native Plants in Habitat	?
5/14/16	Emily Gianfortoni & Val Kish	Insects	7
5/21/16	Joel Klein	Have A Lawn To Be Proud Of	6
10/10/16	Dave Myers	Raised Bed Gardening	4
10/17/16	Val Kish	Putting Your Garden To Bed	3
10/24/16	Doris Gullotta and Betty Jane Hughes	Canning & Freezing	2
Total Contacts 203			

Land Care Stewards

- Booth at Plant Sale
- Cool Springs Elementary Garden Visit
- 4 Volunteers
- 104 Contacts
- 27 Hours

Plant Clinics

- 36 Clinics
- 56 Volunteers
- 619 hours
- 2,344 Contacts

State Fair

- 24 Volunteers
- 167 Hours
- 604 Contacts

Spring Plant Sale

- Netted \$ 2,600

Trips and Tours

- 14th Annual Good Gardening Symposium
- Roots of a Great Garden and Growing Your Own Summer Bouquets
- Goochland / Powhatan MG Spring Fest
- 27th Bellevue Garden Walk
- Casselmonte Farms
- George Washington Historic Kenmore and Gari Melcher'

Working in Approved Gardens

- Giving Tree, Lewis Ginter, Scotchtown
- 22 Volunteers
- 1,068 Hours

Plant Clinics

Date	Location	Total Contacts
Sat, Apr 16, 2016	HMGGA Spring Plant Sale - Plant Clinic	23
Fri, Apr 22, 2016	Pfizer Earth Day	42
Sat, Apr 23, 2016	Lowes	36
Sat, Apr 23, 2016	Historic Garden Week	61
Sat, Apr 30, 2016	38th Ashland Railroad Run	32
Sat, Apr 30, 2016	Maymont Herbs Galore	109
Sat, Apr 30, 2016	Lowes	73
Sat, Apr 30, 2016	Ashland ACE Hardware	2
Fri, May 06, 2016	Herb Fair at Lavender Fields	26
Sat, May 07, 2016	Ashland Farmers Market	10
Sat, May 07, 2016	Immanuel Old Church	44
Sat, May 07, 2016	Lowes	73
Sat, May 07, 2016	Herb Fair at Lavender Fields	39
Fri, May 13, 2016	Herb Fair at Lavender Fields	18
Sat, May 14, 2016	Herb Fair at Lavender Fields	53
Fri, May 20, 2016	Health Fair with Carpenter Company	57
Sat, Jun 04, 2016	Ashland Farmers Market	13
Sat, Jun 04, 2016	Strawberry Faire	103
Sat, Jun 04, 2016	Lowes	46
Thu, Jun 16, 2016	Montpelier Farmers Market	23
Sat, Jul 02, 2016	Ashland Farmers Market	21
Sat, Jul 09, 2016	Hanover Tomato Festival	118
Thu, Jul 14, 2016	Montpelier Farmers Market	12
Wed, Jul 20, 2016	Farmers Market Food Demo	49
Sat, Jul 23, 2016	Ashland Farmers Market SNAP Kick-off	46
Thu, Aug 11, 2016	Montpelier Farmers Market	12
Sat, Aug 13, 2016	St. Stephen's Market	11
Wed, Aug 17, 2016	New Highland Baptist Church Farmers Market SNAP Kick-off	38
Thu, Sep 08, 2016	Montpelier Farmers Market	10
Sat, Sep 10, 2016	St. Stephen's Market	16
Sat, Sep 17, 2016	Lowes	28
Sat, Oct 01, 2016	Ashland Farmers Market	14
Sat, Oct 01, 2016	Lowes	38
Thu, Oct 13, 2016	Montpelier Farmers Market	10
Sat, Oct 15, 2016	Lowes	31
Sat, Oct 15, 2016	Spice Tree Home Owners Association Event	

Help Desk Breakdown

This was the first full year of using the Excel Inquiry Log to keep track of the help desk activity.

Month	Calls	Emails	Other	Walk-in	Samples	Total Contacts
January	13	2				15
February	9	2	3			14
March	24	10	1		2	37
April	15	7		5	2	29
May	19	5		3	4	31
June	23	2		4	4	33
July	16	4	2	5		27
August	21	3		7		31
September	30	2		8		40
October	14	6		9		29
November	5	2		1		8
December	6	1				7
Totals	195	46	6	42	12	301

It appears that most of our activity occurs in March and September.

SNAP

Working with Ann Vargo, FCS NAP-Ed Extension Agent, we helped to launch a program where people could use their SNAP credits to purchase food at Farmers Markets. I attended a class to learn how to do food demos. We participated in Farmers Markets at New Highlands Baptist Church and Ashland Farmers Market where we allowed customers to sample a healthy dish with ingredients mostly available at the market. We handed out recipes, kid's cookbooks, Master Gardener information and a few other giveaways.

Meeting of Area Ag Agents

Laura invited Ag Agents in the area to a meeting where we could talk about Master Gardener programs. I was privileged to attend and gather a lot of good information about what other units are doing. I shared my notes with members of the board.

Yearly Totals from VMS for 2016

Volunteer Hours Logged in VMS as of 1/28/17 – 6,477

Contacts Logged in VMS as of 1/28/17 – 7,586

Continuing Education Hours in VMS as of 1/28/17 – 1,175

Total Miles recorded – 28,638

Betty Jane Hughes

President, HMGA 2016