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HMGA Activity Reports for August 2022

State Fair - Christy Brennan - I am still working with the State Fair to obtain tickets for the State Fair volunteers. For the last 20 years have asked for 10 tickets and parking passes each day for the Master Gardener volunteers. Last year we received about 1/3 of those tickets. This year we are getting 3 tickets per day as well as all other vendors. I have a budget from VMGA, which will be used to purchase tickets, and I requested a call with the State VCE Master Gardener Coordinator (VCE at VA Tech) to help support (fund) this statewide volunteer event.

The VMGA meeting is Saturday, and I will be giving the last push for units and groups to volunteer for the openings and then opening up volunteer opportunities for Hanover MGs. We will have three weekly tickets for rotation and evening coverage which need to come back to the office after use each day.

Hanover opportunities at this point are:

Thursday 9/22 (set up) 4 volunteers meet at the office/shed for loading

Thursday 9/22 (set up) 8 volunteers meet at the State Fair 12:30 - 2

Sunday 10/2 (first shift) 4 volunteers 9:45 - 1:30

Sunday 10/2 (second shift) 4 volunteers 1:30 - 7

Horticulture Learning Center - Bob Durbin - A Memorandum of Agreement was signed by Hanover County Government and VCE, providing 1.10 acres of land, next to the Taylor Complex office of HMGA, to develop the Horticultural Learning Center. There are several stipulations in the MOA which HMGA will have to comply with in order to fulfill the requirements of the MOA. This document will be discussed at the August board meeting on 8/15/22.

VCE has asked Irene Ramey and Bob Durbin to coordinate a team of HMGA members to review the plans for the HCL and implement a process to begin making the HCL a reality.

A grant proposal was considered to secure funding through Rappahannock Electric Cooperative and The Power to Change program, for a rain harvesting system, for the HCL. Since the HMGA Board had no opportunity to review or discuss the MOA, and the HMGA lacked information about the HCL, the proposal was not submitted for funding. Once the planning team for the HCL begins to further clarify steps needed to move the HCL forward other grant opportunities will be explored.

In preparation for the grant proposal two motions were requested of the HMGA Board.

Vote yes, to approve the HCL as an ongoing project of the Association.

Vote yes, to approve an expense of \$2,000, in each of the next three years for a total commitment of \$6,000

These motions will need further discussion at the August board meeting.

A review of the Memorandum of Agreement will be presented by Laura Maxey-Nay at the 8/15 meeting and a discussion will take place by the HMGA Board regarding the resources needed for the project, both in terms of finances, and HMGA volunteer commitment.

Hanover County Government would like a groundbreaking ceremony announcing the HCL in the near future and the HCL planning team would assist with this event.

Several HMGA volunteers have expressed interest in being part of the HCL planning team, after the HMGA votes to make HCL an integral part of the HMGA activity plan.

HMGA Activity Reports for August 2022, continued

Gleaning - Pattie Bland (Pattie Bland and Elaine Daniel, coordinators) - A couple of weather related cancellations notwithstanding, Master Gardener Gleaners have had a successful run this 2022 season. This year 31 Master Gardeners took the food safety training and comprise the roster.

To date: seven (7) gleanings, averaging seven (7) gleaners per session

Amount of produce gleaned:

137 pints - raspberries

366 pints - blackberries

40 bushels - corn

6 bushels - miscellaneous garden vegetables (potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, peppers)

Produce delivered to eight (8) different food pantries, seventeen (17) drop-offs total.

Gleaned at four different producers.

Home Gardening Series - Katrina Hart - Series begins in October; see the HMGA website for information.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VEC) – Angelette Pryor - Very busy in the office lately. Please make sure to check with Missy about space reservations! And let Angelette know when you need space on the VCE side so we can coordinate. This is a great problem to have! Jam n' Jam was very busy – thank you **Susan Warren** and **Irene Ramsey** for helping for 2 full days.

Table demonstration updates continue.

Thursday 8/18/22 at Duncan Memorial beside Randolph Macon College. Please come prepared to enter into the conversation. Thursday 8/18/22 please join in the conversation at our Member meeting to discuss the MG survey results and paths to leadership roles for Hanover Master Gardeners. 6pm Social Time. Meeting starts at 6:30 – 8:00pm. In person only, no ZOOM.

MG Course 23 Council has been doing amazing work! Thank you. We have 7 potential candidates thus far.

Gleaning is very busy. The community thanks you for your dedication.

50 Mile Meal was very well received by the county administration, Board of Supervisors and Ag Producers. It was wonderful to be back in person for this event.

Per Hanover County, it is too expensive to do Asbestos abatement. Laura has asked for the floors to be covered. Awaiting a reply.

Still need a Youth Activity lead. Ag Day returns October 25, 26, 2022 at Meadow Event Park

Home Gardening Series is booked, speakers are scheduled and all will be in person at Atlee Library this season. (No zoom) Thank you HGS group!

Jen Alexander was approached by Michael Hertzberg (Cold Harbor District Supervisor) about a “tree project” – more details later.

HMG has gotten several great press releases lately!

Questions? Comments? Ask Angelette

YTD 93 Master Gardeners/Interns have logged 4487.23 hours of volunteer time. Many volunteers have not entered their hours. Please do this on a timely basis – thanks! We have 15 MG on Leave of Absence and 22 that will be Archived at the end of the year.

Communications - Betty Jane Hughes - Katherine Hebert has taken over the public area of our website and has already produced a great new look. **Betty Jane Hughes** will continue to maintain the Members Only Area. She is currently working on cleaning out files that are no longer needed or can be archived to a jump drive.

Sandy Pence is heading up a team to investigate other public media such as public Facebook and Instagram. We currently have a Facebook presence that is closed to the public and for members only.

HMGA Activity Reports for August 2022, continued

Extension Office Demo Garden - Sandy Pence - Realizing the garden needed additional water, the irrigation drip lines were doubled. With the additional lines and some rain, the garden and pollinators are happy. Thank you to **Katherine Hebert** for help with installing irrigation and tending the garden, and thanks to the support of those working the Help Desk, with **Angelette** as backup, for turning the irrigation on and off. Information on the garden is now posted on the public page of the HMGA website.

Pole Green Butterfly Garden - Sandy Pence - The garden was mulched with chopped leaves as a demonstration of conservation gardening. There is a desire to discover the history of the garden. Anyone that can contribute information on when it was constructed is asked to contact me. Currently working to get information on the garden to **Katherine** for incorporation into the public page of the HMGA website. The garden is located beside the gravel parking lot at the Community Building at Pole Green Park. Stop by and visit.

Seed Bank - Melanie Smith - When I was an intern it was during the pandemic the desire to grow plants from seed increased and finding seeds became difficult. Luckily at the extension office we have generous master gardeners who drop off seeds from their garden to share. This inspired me to create a small seed bank to organize the donations to see if there is interest in sharing seeds within our group. We advertised seed sharing with the MG volunteers via email. At first there were the existing seeds such as zinnias, foxgloves, toad lilies and black eyed susans. Then **Jennifer Alexander** had extra vegetable seeds packets so she added those to the mix. I added seeds I collected from the extension garden out front such as coreopsis and other annuals. But it is slow going because seeds are here but it seems to be a well kept secret.

At our recent July Membership meeting where Activities were shared I found there was an interest in giving and taking seeds. There was a request for milkweed and Rosemary kindly offered to bring some in. Also one of the interns offered to bring in some special hollyhocks to share. So there is some interest growing.

Now is the time to get the word out again. I will brainstorm on how to expand interest. Please next time you stop by the extension office check out the seed bank box and binder with resources at the help desk. You might find something interesting! Fall is seed gathering and sowing for next year for annuals that are re-seeders, like many native plants. Please contribute seeds to our Seed Bank and take some for yourself.

Speakers Bureau - Carol Brown - As of August 14, 2022, I have received one request this month for a speaker.

The request came from the Pamunkey Women's Club. They are requesting a speaker for next year. Details are below:

Requestor: Charlotte Sharp

Topic: Plants to attract pollinators. Suggestion that the topic focus on plants for small gardens. Some members live in condos.

Date: April 24, 2023

Time: 1:00

Place: Atlee Library Note: This location may change. We will be contacted if that happens.

Attendees: 15-20 people

A/V equipment: A screen possibly.

They are preparing their agenda for 2023. A newsletter will be sent to their members in March about the place and speaker name for the April meeting.

Plant Sale - Pat Reyes - No activity this month.

Land Care Steward - Linda Hazelwood - No activity this month.

Plant Clinics - Needs a Coordinator.

Youth Activities - Needs a Coordinator.

MG Help Desk - Val Kish - No Report this month.

MG 2023 Training Class - Val Kish - In the planning stages.

HMGA Activity Reports for August 2022, continued

Educational Grants - Becky Watson (Betty Jane Hughes, Mary Wagner, Doris Gullotta, Mike Little) -

Brief overview of the Roddey Jones Memorial Grant Program:

As part of the Virginia Cooperative Extension, the mission of the Hanover Master Gardeners Association is "Sharing knowledge. Empowering Communities." The Roddey Jones Memorial Grant was initiated to honor a leader of the Hanover Master Gardener Association (HMGA) by funding learning opportunities for Hanover County groups that apply to this grant program. Grant applications are accepted throughout the year. All applications received by the 15th of each month will be reviewed by a judging committee, and presented at the following month's HMGA Board meeting. Hanover Master Gardeners are available for consultation and education. Projects need to be completed within six months from the date the grant check is issued, unless otherwise approved in advance.

Eligibility: groups who reside or conduct business within Hanover County are eligible to apply. Grant awards will not be made to individuals.

The most recent grant application was received in March, 2022, from Laura Haney, Associate Director for Environmental Ministry at Camp Hanover (3163 Parsleys Mill Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23110). The application was requesting funds to purchase a drip irrigation system for their Camp Garden. The grant committee members read and evaluated the grant application and made the recommendation that it be funded. The HMGA Board voted to approve the application at the April Board meeting, and a check for \$500 was mailed to Camp Hanover.

The guidelines of the grant award are that the recipient complete their grant project within six months and submit a final report. I will follow up with them in the Fall, and forward the report to the Board.

The Roddey Jones Memorial Grant application can be completed online at <https://forms.gle/223CLGXJSfLnLxsm8>, or a paper application can be found on the HanoverMasterGardener.org to download, print, and drop off or mail to the Extension Office.

The number of grant applications that we're receiving has dropped off significantly in recent years. I used to send an email to each of the 27 Hanover Public Schools Principals and Science educators each September, when the applications were only accepted once a year, and due by December 1st. Participation was waning several years ago, most likely because of the burden that educators face to meet all the standards and requirements of their day, without adding a project to complete. Then when Covid caused virtual learning, it was an even greater challenge to reach out and encourage grant applications from schools.

Needs of the Grants Committee: I would like to spread the word to schools, groups, and businesses in Hanover about the grant program. I can provide Master Gardeners with a flier (digital or paper) to share with their Home Owner Associations, youth groups, after-school programs, scouting programs, and businesses.

Scotchtown Demo Gardens - Doris Gullota - A planning session for Scotchtown gardens is scheduled for Wednesday August 31st at 1:00pm in the office. We can use the conference room. The topic will be the renovation of the two perennial gardens. We will be planning a work day to remove excess daylilies and spring bulbs. These will be prepared for the plant sale in October and we will discuss the details of this event as well. I will be asking for input on plant suggestions that will be installed later in the fall.

We have been given permission to plant another garden that will feature plants for making fabric. I am thinking of hemp, flax and cotton. I have checked with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and we will need to submit a "Request to Grow Cotton and Fee Waiver" form to the dept for each year we plan to plant cotton. I can get the seeds from Amazon.

Meetings, Trips & Tours, Continuing Education - Eleanor Fukushima -

1. Membership Meeting on 8/18/2022 at Duncan Memorial: Updates on MG survey.
2. Trip to Covenant Woods Farm to Table Garden on 8/23/2022
3. Picnic on 9/11/2022 at Montpelier Park. Capital Trees and the Low Line
4. Trip to Chadwicks Orchids 9/29/2022
5. Membership Meeting on 10/13/2022 Hanover Friends Church. Hanover County Planning Commission.
6. Membership Meeting on 12/8/2022 annual meeting. Soils