



HMGA Activity Reports and Announcements for November 2022

Announcements -

The new Public Facebook Page is now on FB as [Hanover Master Gardeners - Virginia Cooperative Extension](#). If you are a member of FB, please go to our new public Page and Follow it and share from it. Following the new Page will help build its exposure.

State Fair - Christy Brennan - No report.

Horticulture Learning Center - Bob Durbin - HLC committee has not met since the groundbreaking ceremony. All HLC committee members appreciate the effort master gardeners made to make the event a success, especially since the event was moved to Friday at the last minute due to weather concerns. News articles appeared in The Local and Virginia Master Gardener Association news report for November/December. In addition, Jamaal Willis, was interviewed by Channel 8 and that interview was aired on the 5:30pm news, 10/14/22.

Next scheduled HLC meeting is by Zoom on 11/14 at 6:30pm. This meeting will focus on the rainwater harvesting system for the HLC. Training will be done by Shawn Jadrnicek from the VCE Roanoke office. Several MGs from Chesterfield have asked to be part of this training since they are also considering incorporating a larger rain harvesting system for their demonstration garden. Staff from Hanover, General Services and Recreation and Parks have also been invited to this training.

A budget for the HCL will not be submitted to the HMGA Board at this point since the HLC committee has not reached consensus on a first-year budget.

Movement has been slow regarding the application for a grant from Virginia Conservation Assistance Program for the rainwater harvesting system. The next step will be to meet with Soil and Water Conservation staff.

An activity request form has been drafted but has not been reviewed by HLC committee members at this point.

A community survey has been proposed to help guide the HLC planning process. The format and information gathering process have not been developed at this time.

The next planning meeting for the HLC is scheduled for 12/12/22 at 6:30pm.

Gleaning - Pattie Bland (Pattie Bland and Elaine Daniel, coordinators) - Gleaning is now 4 concluded for the year.

Home Gardening Series - Katrina Hart - We have had some great speakers over the past couple of Saturday mornings presenting for the Home Gardening Series. On Saturday, October 29, Anne **Margaret White** engaged her audience as she educated us about ferns. On Saturday, November 5, **Brenda Burke** and **Katherine Hebert** wild us about oak trees and performed a demonstration about acorns (which was fascinating). A shout out to all of our helpers for these two series – YOU ROCK!: **Brenda Burke, Kristy Gahn, Katherine Hebert, Susie Knuth, Jennifer Trainham, Debbie Voss, Richard Wood**. A separate shout out to my Development Team partner, **Susan Higgins** – YOU'RE AWESOME!

If you haven't already done so, check out Facebook for pictures from each HGS. If any one has comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact Katrina Hart.

On Saturday, November 19, Pattie Bland will be our next speaker for the Home Gardening Series. Pattie's presentation will be about *The Necessity and Practices for Good Soils*. We are looking forward to learning all about soil. Please come out and support Pattie. Thank you, Katrina!

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VEC) – Angelette Pryor - Report will be given in the Board meeting since Angelette has been on vacation.

Educational Grants - Becky Watson (Betty Jane Hughes, Mary Wagner, Doris Gullotta, Mike Little) - The proposed Rural Point Elementary School Grant was approved at the October Board meeting. A new grant proposal has been recently received with another interested applicant potentially preparing another.

Scotchtown Demo Gardens - Doris Gullota - Weekend activities to be reported in the Board meeting.

Communications - Betty Jane Hughes - No report.

Land Care Steward - Linda Hazelwood - Home Visit to The Bluffs at Bell Creek - Bell Creek Senior Community, 7339 Dress Blue Circle, Mechanicsville, VA. Date visited: November 2, 2022. Land Care Stewards: **Emily Gianfortoni, Pattie Bland, Linda Hazelwood** and Master Gardeners, **Mike Little, Carol Brown** attended.

This is a senior community with 128 single one story homes. We met with Frank Zauner and Michael Gates.

Goals of Visit:

Lawn care concerns, plant recommendations for new landscaping, and erosion problems. They currently have a lawn care service that does fertilizing, core aeration, soil testing and weed control. The lawns throughout the community were inconsistent.

Overgrown shrubs throughout the neighborhood, many planted too close to the foundation of the homes, others planted in yards. As we walked around the area, we noticed trees showing disease and limbs that needed trimming. Mulch was too close to the base of the trees.

Erosion issues:

Mature Magnolia trees that were planted on a hilltop, roots of these trees were exposed. Also, a home located on the back of the property had issues with a backyard slope. It was a shady area and erosion was creating a problem for the homeowner.

Recommendations:

We suggested that the Lawn Care Service should be contacted and meet with Mr. Gates and Mr. Zauner, to discuss the lawn issues that they were having in their community. **Mike Little** provided the Virginia Tech Fall Lawn Care publication.

Many of the overgrown shrubs throughout the neighborhood had already been pruned by the homeowners. The shrubs planted too close to the home foundations were healthy and should remain in place.

We recommended that the dead limbs on the trees should be removed, and the mulch around the base of the trees should be pulled back away from the trunk of the trees. Some of the trees will probably be replaced in the future. The erosion of the Magnolia trees on the hill could possibly have boxing made from landscape timbers, placed around the trees and filled with soil to protect the roots. This was an extremely steep hill and the homeowners were very concerned about losing this row of trees.

As far as the erosion problem on the back of the property, we thought that the lawn should be removed or downsized and be planted with shade loving native shrubs, ground covers, fern, sedges with a combination of mulch/stone to prevent erosion.

A completed report will be sent to the HOA at a later date.

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

Our Annual Membership Meeting is Thursday, December 8, at the Hanover Evangelical Friends Church 6420 Mechanicsville, Turnpike. The time is 6:30 to 9:00 with our favorite potluck dinner beginning at 6:30. There is time included to visit with old friends and make new ones.

A review of 2022 projects will be highlighted followed by a program on Soils presented by Mary Sketch, Coordinator of the Virginia Soil Health Coalition.

I have requested dates and times for 2023 from the Hanover Friends church and at this time have not heard back from them, regarding approval of those dates.

Plant Sale - Pat Reyes - No report

Plant Clinics - Needs a Coordinator.

Youth Activities - Needs a Coordinator.

MG Help Desk - Val Kish - Update coming next month.

2023 MG Training Class (MGTC) - Val Kish - Update coming next month.

Extension Office Demo Garden - Sandy Pence - Katherine Hebert and I completed Fall garden maintenance and planted pansies for winter interest.

Pole Green Butterfly Garden - Sandy Pence - The garden is going to sleep for the winter. Most drying plant material will be left in place for winter to accommodate the nature that overwinters in undisturbed leaves and stems.

Rural Point Elementary School Garden - Sandy Pence. The garden is ready for Fall lesson plans. This was a successful project for public education of parents and teachers with added benefits of highlighting the MG Program and our projects.

Seed Bank - Melanie Smith - No report.

Speakers Bureau - Carol Brown - No report.