



HMGA Activity Reports and Announcements for September 2022

Announcements -

Virginia Extension Master Gardeners is again sponsoring their Leadership Development Training for all Master Gardeners. This virtual program is each Wednesday in October from 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM. Come to one session or all sessions. Registration is required. [See more here](#). All Hanover MGs are encouraged to attend, especially those that are currently on the Board, leaders of Activities, or wish to aspire to those positions. This valuable training can be used in many of your daily life situations. Free leadership training, can't beat that.

State Fair - Christy Brennan - Opportunities to volunteer at the State Fair are posted on Better Impact. Come join us for this once a year fun opportunity.

Horticulture Learning Center - Bob Durbin - On August 29th a general meeting of the membership gathered to review and discuss the Memorandum of Agreement with VCE and Hanover County, as well as to provide some background on where the HLC idea came from and how it could move forward. Laura Maxey-Nay emphasized several aspects of the MOA.

- The agreement is for 5 years and then can be renewed on a yearly basis for another 5 years
- Hanover Master Gardeners are responsible for the upkeep of the garden to include, watering, mowing, weeding, harvesting and to fix and repair any planting beds to keep the area visually pleasing.
- If for any reason the county wanted the land back, Hanover Master Gardeners would be responsible for returning the land to its original condition.

For a copy of the MOA please ask Bob Durbin to email a copy.

Two individuals were asked to help coordinate the planning for the HLC, **Jamaal Willis** and **Bob Durbin**. A volunteer committee was established and met for the first time on 9/12/22. Hanover County administration established 10/13/22 at 1pm for a groundbreaking, ribbon cutting ceremony.

Notes from the HLC meeting on 9/12/22 - HLC Committee met for the 1st time to discuss two agenda items:

- Develop a plan for the ground breaking ceremony on 10/13/22 at 1pm
- Review and discuss how to implement a HLC garden plan

Recommendations for the Ground Breaking Ceremony – Time Estimate, no more than 1 hour Program.

- Introduction no more than 30 minutes - Speakers for Hanover County and VCE, as yet unknown. MG Rep would give a brief overview of the HLC, History, Highlighting our efforts in the community.

- Ground Breaking Ceremony -
 - 4 or 5 MGs in a line with County and VCE staff,
 - MGs would have used shovels, MGs (Two longest tendered MGs),
 - Other MG's yet to be identified
 - Participants would put the shovel into one raised bed of either soil, sand, or bark mulch; Raised bed (4X8) built out of used wood donated by P. H.
- After the ground breaking, guests would be directed to several (4-6) MG plant clinic tables where MG's would demonstrate what we do (Compost Demo, Cold Frame, Rain Barrel Demo, Plant Disease Demo, etc.). These demos are not finalized as yet.
- Possibly have a plant or tree given to attendees. Wayne stated he may have some plants that could be given out.
- Flags would be placed in the ground marking the 1st phase boundary, as well as the overall boundary
- Tents, if needed, would be placed over the Plant Clinic tables
- A large tent would be placed on the garden if rain was indicated
- HMGA Banners would be displayed
- Press release and Evite would be sent prior to the event. (Katherine will assist)
- HMGA Community Partners would be invited. (Lowes, Sandy's Plants, Jones Lumber, ACE Hardware, Ashland Feed Store, Tractor Supply, etc.) Fliers may be placed in these locations.
- Elementary and possibly HS level decision makers
- Possible current or past grant recipients,
- School Superintendent.

Gleaning - Pattie Bland (Pattie Bland and Elaine Daniel, coordinators) - Hanover Master Gardener Gleaners as of 9/16/2022 have gleaned:

- raspberries - 137 pints
- blackberries - 666 pints
- corn - 38 bushels
- misc veggies: cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, peppers, green beans, onions, potatoes - 10 bushels
- watermelons - 332 (6640 lb = 3.32 tons)

Delivered to nine (9) different pantries for a total of 47 deliveries.

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

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VEC) – Angelette Pryor -

- Interviews for Hanover 4 H Agent are in process
- No news about building floor replacement
- Spotted Lantern fly remains a major problem and is expected to only worsen in the future
- Please remember to wear your Master Gardener name tags
- Bug Bizarre is Saturday Oct 8th – it is a really fun event we do with Henrico Master Gardeners – come support the connection.
- Office continues to be busy with meetings and planning for activities.
- Thank you to many MG/Interns that have helped with Interviews for trainees
- MG Course 2023 - We have 21 applications for 15 slots... trying to get commitments (and payment) to determine when to actually close the application process.

- HMGA needs to determine if it wants to pursue recommendations from the Facilitation meeting at Duncan Memorial 8/18/22. Results were emailed 8/29/22 to all in attendance at the facilitation session. See attachments.
- Maybe Strategic Planning is the next phase - it has been awhile. Great project to do during the winter maybe by ZOOM?
- As we move forward with new activities please remember to respect differences, be open to new ideas and compromise is the way to moving forward. We have many activities in process and are taking on more – we all need to lend a hand. Set a goal for yourself for next year – can you double your volunteer hours in 2023?? Maybe try for 6 hours or more a month – just imagine what we could accomplish! Step forward and offer to help - we all learn so much from each other and at times from failure. Keep trying. If you feel like your talents are untapped - do your peers know your talents? Hopefully we will continue to be able to meet and socialize this fall and winter. COVID was very hard on our group and many others. Let's make a rebound in 2023.

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

.We received an online application for the Roddey Jones Memorial Grant on September 15th from Rural Point Elementary School. They have a community garden at the school that needs to be brought back to life after a neglected period during Covid.

The grant application was forwarded to the Grants Committee members for evaluating and scoring. I'll submit their scores and comments, and any recommendation for funding in a report for the October HMGA Board meeting.

Scotchtown Demo Gardens - Doris Gullota -

August 31, 2022 - A planning meeting was held at 1pm at the extension office. Fourteen MGs attended along with Dawn Burnette, site coordinator, and Patrick Laird, historic interpreter, from the staff of Preservation Virginia. I presented a slideshow of pictures of the gardens from June to the present. We set up work days for Sept 14th in the afternoon and Sept 15th in the morning. The work will focus on garden cleanup and removal of excess daylilies, daffodil bulbs along with excess phlox plants. We talked about plans for the plant sale on Oct 1st. We will put many of the bulbs in bags to make them more portable, some will remain in containers.

September 3 - I prepared a summary of the meeting on August 31st and sent it out to everyone to review.

September 14 and 15 - Work days were attended by 8 MGs each day. We removed about 30% of the daylilies from both gardens and bagged them with wood shavings for the plant sale. There are many left. We decided that the best way to display plants in the garden would be in clumps. After removing plants, it became apparent that we would need mulch to fill in the spaces around plants. Another work day was scheduled for Thursday September 22nd from 9:30am to 11:30am to complete the additional work.

Pam Barbour designed some plant ID posts for the gardens. Right now we will use them in the perennial gardens during the growing season and remove them for the winter months to help preserve them. I will bring one to the Board meeting on Monday.

Communications - Betty Jane Hughes - Reports to the Board are now being shared with everyone in the form of a monthly newsletter.

Website – **Katherine Hebert**

- The events section on the home page has been updated to reflect the remaining dates for plant clinics. I think I will add the state fair dates for plant clinics. I saw you had some listed

in your weekly calendar. A tab was added to announce the groundbreaking ceremony for the new horticultural learning center on Oct 13.

- The graphic about the spotted lantern fly was added to the home page to alert people.
- The butterfly garden page has new copy, thanks to Sandy, that describes the garden's history and mission. Photos of the evolution from installing to in bloom are also included.
- A few new images have been added to the recent projects slideshow and older events removed. It will continue to evolve as projects come and go.

The information about the Class of 2023 and the open house on Oct 4 should probably come down after the open house. The class is full, and applications will no longer be accepted soon.

A flyer, press release, and email invitation are being created to promote the horticultural learning center event. The committee will post the flyer throughout the county, and it can be used at plant clinics and the state fair. The email invitation will go out to present and past master gardeners, garden clubs, and other organizations that may be interested in learning more or getting involved.

Still pending from me -

- I need to get together with Doris about the Scotchtown page. I think she is planning new plants. I also need more photos of the garden to include. I will also get her to write up something for the arts and craft event in November.
- I still want to add the monthly chores and I think Sandy is working on the resource page. That will likely lead to creating new pages with helpful information for the community.

Public Facebook Page - **Sandy Pence**

The current private HMGA facebook page will remain as a private page for HMGA members. A new facebook page for Hanover Master Gardeners will soon be created and used as a communication with the public. It will also be managed by **Buz Sawyer** and created for administer posting only. The comments section will be unavailable and it will contain information giving the help desk as a contact for gardening information.

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

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

- The October 13th member meeting with the Hanover Planning Board has been canceled due to the ground breaking for the HLC. We will reschedule Mr. Pompei at a later date.
- The trip to Chadwicks is on 9/29/22. Space still available, sign up on BI.
- Mary Sketch, Coordinator of the Virginia Soil Health Coalition, will be talking about soils at the Annual Member Meeting on 12/8/2022.
- Thanks to everyone who attended the picnic. Shelly Barrick Parsons with Capital Trees made an excellent presentation on the mission of Capitol Trees and their projects. Her slide show is posted in the Member section of HMGA website.

Plant Sale - Pat Reyes - It is a good time of year to think about dividing hardy perennials for the plant sale next April. Hardy perennials, especially natives, will do well in pots over the winter.

Vendors for the Annual Plant Sale - **Sandy Pence**

A trip to Lewis Ginter's plant sale produced four potential vendors for the plant sale. Information was shared about the MG plant sale and vendors seemed interested.

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.

Extension Office Demo Garden - Sandy Pence - This garden was planted in the spring to evolve into a demonstration of a native plant landscape that could be used at a residence. It was filled in with flowering plants and really became a pollinator garden. The Goldfinch have been enjoying the purple coneflower seed heads also. The garden was recently mulched with composted leaves as an example of sustainable gardening practices.

Pole Green Butterfly Garden - Sandy Pence - The new page for the HMGA website is up on the garden giving its history and the sustainable gardening practices being demonstrated at the garden. If you haven't been to the website, check it out. It is getting a new look with new content.

Seed Bank - Melanie Smith - It is seed collecting time of year, and seed scattering time for next year's plants. Check out the Seed Bank at our office.

Speakers Bureau - Carol Brown -

Topic: Composting, talk for about 45 minutes

Who: Old Ivy Garden Club

When: October 25, 2022 at 10:30am

Where: Chamberlayne Methodist Church, 6100 Chamberlayne Rd., Richmond, Va 23227

Approximated 20-25 attendees in a large meeting room.

There is a projector screen on site. Bring a projector and laptop if needed.