

Hanover Master Gardener Annual Report 2014

I. HMGA President's Report.....Buz Sawyer

The year 2014 was one marked by change and challenge. In reality the changes began in late 2013 with the resignation of Pattie Bland from her position as ANR Program Assistant. This was followed by the resignation of Jim Schroering in the Spring of 2014 from his position as ANR Agent. Although plans to replace the ANR agent would move forward, it was recognized that the program assistant would be replaced with an overall volunteer coordinator responsible for master volunteers as well as 4H volunteers. The great challenge was to determine ways in which the Association would continue to support programs while adjusting volunteer involvement to cover tasks formerly handled by the program assistant. We welcomed Laura Maxey-Nay to the position of ANR Agent as well as Wanda Willis Trexler as the Volunteer Coordinator in June and began the task of sorting out task responsibilities under the new organizational arrangement. Although this sorting out will continue in 2015, it is great to note that progress to date has allowed the Master Gardener program to continue full support for all existing programs and projects. It should be noted that many Master Gardeners in and out of the Association donated extra time and effort during this transition to ensure success and the organization begins 2015 stronger and more flexible as a result.

II. VCE/HMGA MG Coordinator.....Wanda Trexler/Liz Campbell

- VMS expanded use of calendars as well as posting training documents and presentations. 163 active VMS users.
- Extension Volunteer Coordinator hired in June, 2014
- Wanda Trexler, Laura Maxey-Nay, & Lorre Hyatt attended the Southeast District MG training in October.
- A customized Master Gardener brochure to Hanover was produced as an aide for program recruitment.
- The extension office celebrated State Fair VCE Day with booth hosted by Hanover MGs and Hanover 4-H Clubs. Details on contacts and volunteers are reported in the State Fair report below.
- The task of formalizing volunteer role descriptions, policies, and procedures was launched during the latter half of the year.

Wanda expressed appreciation for the welcome and support she has received from the Master Gardeners since her arrival.

III. Plant Clinics.....Ray Leffler/Ian Sutton

The initial planning for 2014 was completed by Ray Leffler and a successful hand off to Ian Sutton as the new Plant Clinic Coordinator was completed midyear. Ray should be acknowledged for his dedication to this important program over the past several years. By year's end a new plant clinic committee had been established and plans are underway for the 2015 plant clinic season. Below please find a tabulation of the 2014 plant clinics complete with contact results. Note that all but 3 of the 36 scheduled clinics were staffed. Also note that 2 additional plant clinics were held at the Giving Tree by Giving Tree volunteers.

Date	Title	Vols	Hours	Contacts
3/22/14	Weather in the Garden (Great Big Green House)	3	12	35
3/29/14	Green Day at James River Equipment	4	20	10
4/5/14	Strange's Bloomin' Days at Strange's Garden Center West Broad St.	8	64	46

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Date	Title	Vols	Hours	Contacts
4/6/14	Strange's Bloomin' Days at Strange's Garden Center West Broad St.	8	64	38
4/12/14	HMGA Plant Sale (Hanover Evangelical Friend's Church)	11	42	53
4/19/14	Lowes	4	16	58
4/26/14	Ashland Green Fair/ Railroad Race SHEET LOST -No Data	?	?	?
4/26/14	Herbs Galore at Maymont	8	64	100
4/26/14	YMCA Health Day	5	25	141
4/27/14	Earth Day at Bass Pro Shops	8	32	54
5/2/14	Lavender Fields	4	12	15
5/2/14	Colesville Nursery	7	21	30
5/3/14	Lavender Fields	7	21	37
5/3/14	Ashland Farmer's Market	3	12	18
5/9/14	Lavender Fields	4	12	7
5/10/14	Lavender Fields	6	18	46
5/10/14	St. Stephens Farmer's Market	4	16	16
5/12/14	Ashwood Gardens	5	15	21
5/17/14	Lowes	3	12	24
6/7/14	Ashland Farmer's Market	5	20	4
6/7/14	Ashland Strawberry Faire	8	48	86
6/14/14	St. Stephens Farmer's Market	5	20	25
6/21/14	Lowes	4	15	31
7/5/14	Ashland Farmer's Market	4	16	11
7/12/14	Tomato Festival	9	27	218
7/12/14	St. Stephens Farmer's Market	4	16	37
7/19/14	Lowes	4	16	26
8/2/14	Ashland Farmer's Market	4	16	23
8/9/14	St. Stephens Farmer's Market	5	20	26
8/16/14	Lowes	2	8	20
9/6/14	Ashland Farmer's Market	4	16	19
9/13/14	St. Stephens Farmer's Market	4	16	20

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Date	Title	Vols	Hours	Contacts
9/20/14	Lowes CANCELLED DUE TO FAMILY CRISIS	N/A	N/A	N/A
10/4/14	Ashland Farmer's Market	4	16	6
10/11/14	Hillcrest Baptist Church	2	6	3
10/11/14	St. Stephens Farmer's Market CANCELLED	N/A	N/A	N/A
10/16/14	Ag Day at Poor Farm Park	11	55	802
10/18/14	Hanover County Sheriff's Office	2	5	79
Total	N/A	187	1,186	1,905

IV. MG Help Desk.....Juanita Wrenn

The Help Desk is the center around which all our public presence revolves. This really is where people in our community go to get their answers to vexing home gardening questions. Although staffing the phone remains a challenge, good progress has been made in adding new volunteers to this effort. Listed here are the contact statistics from the help desk efforts of 2014.

Month	Phone Calls	Emails	Samples
January	23	2	2
February	15	4	1
March	19	3	0
April	44	4	8
May	42	6	3
June	41	5	5
July	51	5	4
August	33	3	4
September	27	14	5
October	32	4	4
November	9	3	1
December	12	6	1
Totals	348	59	38

V. Master Gardener Class.....Lorre Hyatt

The 2014 training class began as 12, but ultimately graduated 11 due to 1 trainee moving away. Unfortunately, only a small percentage have achieved full MG status by completing their intern training requirements. Hopefully, the number will be higher by the end of the full 15-month training window at the end of March, 2015. Looking toward the 2015 training class, a public information program was held in October at which there were about 12 attendees. We received 12 applications and conducted 12 interviews of same in November and December All were approved

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for acceptance into the 2015 Master Gardener Training class and most are expected to accept. Planning for the upcoming training has included revising the curriculum to reflect a stronger focus on diagnostics and preparation for participation in the Help Desk and Plant Clinics. Some new presenters/instructors have been secured and more diagnostic labs scheduled. In addition, one out-of-the-classroom, hands-on session will be scheduled for the topic of Pruning. We will again be offering trainees the opportunity to pair up with a mentor to help guide them through the training process. Training will be held in the Parks and Recreation Building classroom. We will begin with the Mentor/Mentee dinner on Tuesday, January 6, 2015. Regular classes will begin Wednesday, January 7, 2015 and are scheduled to end Wednesday, April 1, 2015, weather permitting (although there are some built-in "Weather Days").

VI. Home Gardening Series.....Theresa Cammarata/Betty Jane Hughes

Planning and staffing for the 2014 Home Gardening Series was handled by Theresa Cammarata. After the successful winter series was completed she requested that we recruit her replacement. After Betty Jane Hughes agreed to take this on she was nominated for and subsequently elected to the position of Association President. At year end the Association is once again searching for a replacement for Theresa.

The 2014 Home Gardening Series was arguably the most successful yet. In addition to averaging 35 participants per program, our unit won 2nd place in the State Master Gardener search for excellence competition at Master Gardener College in June.

Date	Program Presented	Contacts
1/4/14	How to Make and Use Compost & Making and Using Vermicompost	46
1/11/14	Residential Landscape Design	50
1/18/14	Growing Berries and Small Fruits in Hanover County	45
1/25/14	Gardening for Pollinators: Attracting Birds and Bees	33
2/1/14	Growing your own vegetables: Eat Fresh at Home	46
2/8/14	Growing from Seeds	43
2/15/14	Flowers from Your Backyard	30
2/22/14	Insect CSI in the Garden	38
3/1/14	Growing a Better Lawn as the Neighbors Grow Green with Admiration	31
3/8/14	Pruning Basics	59
9/6/14	What Not to Plant	13
9/13/14	Lawn Care	13
9/20/14	Gardening Tools: Their Use and Care	13
Total	N/A	460

VII. Membership.....Liz Campbell

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This year's membership remained relatively even with past years with a total of 80 dues paying members, 11 Interns, and 24 Emeritus for a grand total of 115. The number of Interns and dues paying members represents 66% of the potential membership.

Multiple lists of trainees and master gardeners have now been consolidated so we now have an accurate list of participants from 1982 to the present. All master gardeners listed as active in VMS will be receiving a contact beginning early in 2015 in an effort to recruit new association members.

VIII. Speaker's Bureau

12 presentations were given during 2014 by seven different MGs. Topics included care and feeding of garden soils, composting, and pesticides and bee declines.

IX. Retention/Mentors.....Lisa Willis/Anne Frost

The program is designed to successfully guide trainees through the training class and internship to become regular volunteers in the Hanover Master Gardener Program. As a mentor you are the vital contact person who provides the assistance and support needed to become an active Master Gardener. Actual volunteer hours vary depending on you and your trainee, but include an initial meet and greet opportunity followed by periodic contacts through the method you prefer. (VM5)

2014 marked the second year of the HMGA Mentor Program. This program was designed to successfully guide current trainees through the training class and internship to become full fledged Master Gardeners in the Hanover Master Gardener Program. There were eleven MG mentors paired with eleven trainees. The "mentor experience" was reviewed in the form of an end-of-program questionnaire (separate ones for trainees and mentors). The results of the questionnaire showed that the program was very successful and that it needed to continue as an integral part of the HMGA program.

X. Plant Sales.....Joel Klein

The Spring Sale was a decent success in our new home at the Hanover Evangelical Friends Church on the Mechanicsville Turnpike. The vendors seemed to be happy and traffic was better than what we experienced at the DSS building parking lot on route 1. Due to Easter being April 20th, the plant sale was moved up a week earlier than usual. Weather permitting, we expect the 2015 sale, scheduled for April 18th to be a rollicking success.

Spring Income: \$2,558

Fall Income: \$250

XI. State Fair.....Christy Brennan

- The reported attendance showed that 238,000 people visited this year's State Fair of Virginia, this was a 4 percent increase over last year's attendance! At times it was crazy with so many people and handouts were going fast!
- This year the Master Gardeners Booth focused on Protecting Our Pollinators. The Master Gardener Booth is a part of the State Fair Educational Tour, and had to provide a theme as well as hands on activities for children. The Master Gardeners taught students how to make a home for a mason bee and distributed educational and fun handouts on pollination.
- It takes a wonderful and adaptable team of Hanover Master Gardeners to host this event and make it a huge success, from taking care of the State Fair Gardens, staffing the booth, setting up, taking down and hauling the materials back and forth to the Fair. This year's Fair also celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Cooperative Extension and the MG booth and Hanover

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County Booth were very important stops for Fair guest as we were two close stops scavenger hunt to get a free backpack.

In addition, the Master Gardeners of Hanover staffed a number of shifts in the MG Booth as well as giving a workshop on Fairy Gardens. The list of these is shown below complete with numbers of volunteers, hours, and contacts:

Date	Title	Vols	Hours	Contacts
9/22/14	State Fair Planting and Set Up	10	5	N/A
9/25/14	VMG Booth Set Up at the Fair	8	24	N/A
9/26/14	Staffing VMG State Fair Booth	8	64	232
9/27/14	Staffing VMG State Fair Booth	12	48	429
9/27/14	VCE Day Event at State Fair	5		437
9/29/14	Fairy Garden Workshop at State Fair	2	12	185
10/1/14	Staffing VMG State Fair Booth	5	20	427*
10/3/14	Staffing VMG State Fair Booth	5	20	330*
10/5/14	Staffing VMG State Fair Booth	12	48	399
10/5/14	State Fair Plant Sale/ Tear Down and Transport	8	45	N/A
All Days	Watering Plants and General Upkeep throughout the State Fair	3	78	N/A

*These numbers reflect a full day of 3 four hour shifts. Hanover staffed only the evening shift or a third of the day.

- Thanks to Dave Close and John Freeborn who went all out this year supporting the booth with posters, 15 lbs of wildflower seeds, VCE brochures, pencils and tote bags. The Virginia Master Gardener Association (VMGA) were huge partners and helped finance the cost of the educational materials, and publicized the event which resulted in Eleven units from around the State participating.
- Chesterfield Master Gardeners also helped in a huge way by letting us borrow posters and materials used at the Bumble Bee Jamboree held annually at Maymont.
- Christy thanks everyone who participated, We received a lovely thank you note from the folks who organize the State Fair. The State Fair truly values the relationship it has with Hanover Master Gardeners promoting agriculture and sustainable landcare practices in Virginia.

XII.HMGA Classroom Grants.....Beckey Watson

The Grants Committee recommended, and the HMGA Board approved, three classroom grants for 2014. The following table lists the schools and projects along with the grant dollars awarded:

School	Title	Purpose	Funded
Rural Point Elementary School	Gifted Resources	Build 4 raised beds for companion plantings	\$500

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School	Title	Purpose	Funded
South Anna Elementary	Special Education	Rehab 2 raised beds, add path to accommodate wheel chairs	\$497
Atlee High School	Horticulture/Ag	Develop a turf science research area	\$500

XIII. **Landcare Stewards**.....Linda Hazlewood/Emily Gianfortoni

During 2014, Hanover Land Care Stewards participated in approximately 6 events, and have shared our knowledge with the public by speaking at MG training classes, MG college, church festivals, and other gardening events.

Vermicomposting continues to be our most popular topic at all events.

Our activities included:

- MG Training Class
- January 15, 2014, Land Care Stewards conducted a presentation on Soil Textures, Amendments, Composting, and Vermicomposting Emily Gianfortoni, Sherry Giese, Linda Hazelwood, and Christy Brennan participated in this event. 24 contacts and 12 volunteer hours were generated by this activity.

- MG Spring Plant Sale

April 12, 2014, Land Care Steward Booth Emily Gianfortoni, Emily Clanton, Linda Hazelwood, and Diane Dean participated in this event. 34 contacts and 20 volunteer hours were generated by this activity.

- Master Gardener College

June 25-29, 2014, Pattie Bland conducted a presentation on vermicomposting, composting, recycling, fire wise house/practices, large industrial composting to LCS trainees. 13 contacts and 4 volunteer hours were generated by this activity.

- State Fair

September 25-October 5, 2014, LCS's worked in the Master Gardener Booth, sharing information on vermicomposting, fire wise safety, recycling, and sharing red wiggler worms. Contacts and hours were combined with Hanover Master Gardeners.

- Hillcrest Baptist Church Fall Festival

October 11, 2014, Vermicomposting Demo Emily Gianfortoni, Linda Hazelwood participated in this event. 13 contacts and 6 volunteer hours were generated by this activity.

- Fairfield Presbyterian Church

November 6, 2014, Vermicomposting Demo to Girl Scout Troop, Boy Scouts were present for part of demo Emily Gianfortoni, Linda Hazelwood participated in this event. 30 contacts and 4 volunteer hours were generated by this activity.

- Land Care Stewards have contributed approximately 46 hours of volunteer service and generated 114 contacts.

XIV. **Scotchtown**.....Mary Knight/Jim Stewart

Due to changes in the way that the gardens at Scotchtown are now managed, it will be necessary to revamp the project description to better suit the needs of this historical site as well as the master gardener volunteers. Meetings and correspondence have been initiated in the last months of 2014 in an effort to redefine the project objectives. An updated project proposal will be submitted for approval before the beginning of the 2015 program year.

XV. **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden**.....Barb Sawyer

Hanover Master Gardeners continue to volunteer time and talents at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Volunteering is in the areas of horticulture, special events, organization, and education. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden's stated mission is education and our master gardeners interact

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with the public on a regular basis in all of these areas. Volunteer hours in the Children's Garden are approved as YH-1. Other hours are approved as NEP-1. Barbara Sawyer is the current Chair of the garden's volunteer council.

XVI. **Giving Tree**.....Pat Reyes

From April 1, 2014 thru October 7, 2014 on Tuesday nights, HMGA are working in the gardens. Under the supervision of Scott and Beth Burrell 9 master gardener's prune, cut weed, separate and divide. We also pot, plant and transplant. A total of 192 hours were volunteered to this project. To round out the experience and provide volunteer hours that count towards the public education requirements, two plant clinics were held to support the Giving Tree plant sale with the following results:

Date	Title	Vols	Hours	Contacts
5/9/14	Giving Tree Plant Sale	4	15	21
5/10/14	Giving Tree Plant Sale	3	15	19

XVII. **Meeting Planner**.....Barb Sawyer

It was a busy year for meetings, with many opportunities for our Master Gardeners to get their Continuing Education hours.

At our Association Meetings, we had informative programs on:

- "Plants for Pollinators," by Helen Hamilton, author of Native Plants and Grasses of the Coastal Plain,
- "Past, Present, and Future State of the Bay," with Ann Jurczyk, Chesapeake Bay Foundation,
- "The Botany of Fall Color," with Professor John Hayden, Univ. of Richmond
- "Windowsill Arrangements," with tonight's guest, Nancy Ross Hugo, Nationally known author of several books, including Trees.

We have also had some great programs from our own members, including:

"Identifying Invasive Plants," with Emily Gianfortoni

"Bonsai!," with Randi Heise

"Planning and Preparing for Your Fall and Winter Garden," with Lisa Willis, Joel Klein, and Bobbi-Jo Jackson

"Hypertufa Workshop," at the Hazelwood's residence

"Low Maintenance Organic Gardening," with Lance Gardner

XVIII. **Roots and Shoots**.....Jerry McKinney and Kristen Reihl

The elementary school garden program at Henry Clay Elementary in Ashland began in March with planting raised beds of radishes, carrots, lettuce, onions, peas, beans, potatoes, marigolds, nasturtiums and sunflowers. A total of 319 first and second graders and kindergarteners were taught how to plant and care for their garden; to know plant parts and how to harvest their plants; and each student took home a part of the harvest to share with family. In addition to some parent volunteers we thank our Master Gardener volunteers: Kristin Riehl, Freda Oliver, Ian Sutton, Pam Barbour, Cybele Brook, and Jerry McKinney. Approximately 62 hours were amassed devoted to this project which the children love. The connection children make with the soil and where food comes from is the payoff for all of the hours of "work".

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XIX. Trips and Tours.....Sandy Pence

There were 8 trips with approximately 80 MGs participating. Two trips to one of our favorite local nurseries, Carolyn's Garden. Our highlight trip being to Washington DC. to see the National Botanic Garden, Gardens on the Mall, and Dunbarton Oaks, with 18 attending.

A complete list of 2014 trips and tours are listed here:

- Pine Knot Farms Hellebores Festival
- Tricycle Gardens Urban Garden
- Carolyn's Gardens, "All About Hydrangeas"
- The United States Botanic Garden and Dunbarton Oaks.
- Mike Wallace's greenhouse
- Harrisonburg, VA Includes 3 locations; Edith J. Carrier Arboretum and Botanic Garden at JMU; Harpers Statuary and Water Gardens;
- Craig Boward's Elephant Ears Garden
- Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello

XX. Miscellaneous Projects.....Val Kish/Betty Jane Hughes

- Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE)

The event is conducted by the Hanover-Caroline Soil & Water Conservation District. Hanover Master Gardeners are asked to help. Sixth graders from both Hanover and Caroline are taken to Poor Farm Park where they spend half a day rotating through stations for Aquatic Organisms, Water Quality Testing, Riparian Buffer and Wetlands. For 2014 the dates were April 22, April 23, April 24 and April 30. The event was rained out on April 29. Seventeen Hanover Master Gardeners volunteered to staff a station. Some worked more than one day so there were 27 volunteers for six hours each for a total of 162 volunteer hours. Each station saw about 200 students a day for an overall total of approximately 3,200 youth contacts.

- Adult Adult Center

In this first year of the association of Hanover MGs with the Hanover Adult Center, we met twice a month, two hours each time, and 10 different MGs participated. In a total of 16 meetings March-October, we interacted with up to 30 residents each visit, teaching them how to plant seeds, how to harvest vegetables, and in the hot humid days of summer, extending their exposure to nature by working with them on arts and crafts-related projects.

- Re-Leaf

102 Hanover County residents participated in the free tree seedling give away carried out by 14 MG volunteers during Spring Break 2014. Five Hanover County libraries were the distribution sites and we gave away 341 trees along with educational materials describing growth conditions for each tree species.

XXI. Publicity.....Muffi Grinnell

The Hanover Master Gardener Website was used to inform the public on events such as Home Gardening Series, calendar tips for the home garden, as well as what is happening in the master gardener community. Use of this communications tool continues to evolve with a planned HMG member's page planned for 2015.

XXII. Facebook.....Buz Sawyer

As of December 2014 we have 52 members sharing garden information in the Hanover Master Gardener page. Members share horticulture articles from various sources as well as photos of personal gardens. We have two administrators, Buz Sawyer and Cheri Haggerty. This group is intended to be for the use of Hanover Master Gardeners, Interns, and Trainees, but is publicly visible.

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XXIII.**Newsletter**.....Stephanie Workman/Arlene Sanderson/Emily Gianfortoni

There was only one Home Grown News published in January with a VMS newsletter published in October. With the addition of the Master Gardener website and our mandatory use of VMS there is some debate as to what format our newsletter ought to take in the future. It seems a likely topic for resolution in 2015.

Respectively Submitted,
Buz Sawyer
Immediate Past President
Hanover Master Gardener Association