



## HMGA Activity Reports and Announcements for June 2023

Compiled September 15, 2023 - Sandy Pence

### Announcements -

- 

### Horticulture Learning Center - Bob Durbin and Holly Owens (reporting) -

#### Irrigation

- The HLC Coordinators along with input from the Extension Staff, VCAP Staff and Board Officers have decided that we will not submit the VCAP Application for funding the irrigation project. After submitting water harvest calculations we were informed that the amount we are eligible for would not be sufficient to complete the project according to the plan.
- Rainwater Harvest Systems in Roanoke has all of the materials and equipment for the water tank. They have everything needed to install a tank and will provide expertise if needed.
- Funding for the system will be provided using the Rappahannock Grant, the Keep Virginia Beautiful Grant, proceeds from the Ashland Harvest Run and the HLC funds on hand.
- Boy Scouts are asking to help with a project and may be able to assist with installing the piping in the garden.

#### BI/Schedule

- The Summer work schedule for the HLC Garden will end as of 9/21/23. Work Time for the 21<sup>st</sup> will be from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Please check in BI for times and dates after the 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### Day of Service – 9/11

- The Day of Service on 9/11 had nineteen volunteers including Master Gardeners/Interns, Community Volunteers and County Employees.
- Mike Flagg brought his front-end loader and helped spread the remaining chips and reorganize the soil pile.
- Angelette led the group in sharing memories of 9/11 and reminded us of the significance of the day and our shared experiences.
- County Officials stopped by to see the project while on a tour of all of the 911 events in Hanover County. Stay tuned for articles on the Garden and 911 events.

#### Harvest Run – Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>

- Signups for the run are on the Harvest run and HMG websites.
- A Walk/Run group has been started under the name “Hanover Master Gardeners” on the Harvest Run website. A link is also on the Hanover Master Gardener Website.  
<https://hanovermastergardeners.org/#1687277411272-619f110e-a305>

- If you are interested in volunteering to be Course Marshals for the race please contact Holly Owens.
- There will be an information tent for Master Gardeners, the theme will be "Good Bugs/Bad Bugs" and we will be using the materials from the State Fair.
- Please promote with family and friends. We are aiming for thirty-five volunteers and now have around twenty-two.
- If you are unable to participate it is possible to sponsor a runner instead.

#### In the Garden

- All of the remaining wood chips have been distributed around the perimeter of the garden in an effort to combat the wire grass.
- Existing beds are being prepared for either fall crops or cover crops.
- The Planting Committee has begun to develop a plan for what will be planted in the garden in 2024 (to align with teaching plan).
- Looking for ideas for the garden for next year and are very interested in your ideas and participation.
- A survey is being prepared to get your opinions on how the garden has done this year. More to come.
- 2024 plan will include developing Sub Committees to handle Fundraising, Community Engagement, Education, Planning, etc. Please let Bob Durbin, Holly Owens or Kate Sandy know if you have interest in any of the above.

#### **Extension Office Demo Garden - Sandy Pence -**

This garden is considered a part of the HLC and I will be its bed steward. I need partner MGs to join me in this garden. The garden has been an experiment and has changed over the years with those that have taken responsibility for it. It is currently considered an example of a Residential Landscape Native Garden. If you are interested in learning more about native plants, this is your opportunity. I knew very little about native plants when I took responsibility for it two years ago. Join me in evaluating the garden and making changes to it. sandypence@hotmail.com

#### **Pole Green Butterfly Garden - Sandy Pence**

The same is true for the butterfly garden as for the Office garden. I need partner MGs to join me in this garden. This garden needs a redesign because it is in so much shade that some of the plants didn't bloom this year. It is also a native garden and a perfect opportunity to learn more about native plants. sandypence@hotmail.com

#### **Gleaning - Pattie Bland (Corinna Muldowney, Pattie Bland) -**

As of September 8, Hanover Master Gardener Gleaners have picked 11,460 pounds of fruits and vegetables.

15 gleanings  
53 deliveries  
9 different food pantries

Breakdown by product:  
blackberries -1784 pints/1338 lbs  
raspberries - 56 pints/42 lbs  
tomatoes - 29 bushels/1160 lbs  
watermelons - 390/7800 lbs  
corn - 32 bushels/1120 lbs

**Home Gardening Series - Darlette Meekins, Ronni McCord, Noel Oakes** -The planning committee has been meeting to finalize the lineup for the Home Gardening Series (HGS), which is set to kickoff Oct. 21 at the Atlee Library. In addition to gathering speakers for the series, the committee has worked to create a flyer that can be disseminated to the community to attract interest.

Call to action: the planning committee is looking for volunteers to help facilitate each monthly event by setting up/breaking down, helping with sign-in, and any other activities that may be needed. Please reach out to the planning committee, if interested (volunteer hours are provided for those who do help). Signup is available on BI. Oct. 21's talk will cover organic gardening practices and native grasses/sedges by two of our own master gardeners.

### **Scotchtown Demo Gardens - Doris Gullota**

September 14 – Visit to Cynthia Schmidt's perennial gardens

I had the list of Cynthia's plants (native plant field trip garden), sent by Eleanor, and made notes on the plants that we can use in the perennial gardens at Scotchtown. I need to do some research on some of them to see if they are appropriate for the colonial time period. She is willing to donate these plants and for those that do not transplant well, she will donate seeds. Cynthia gave me some information on another resource that will be useful for obtaining some plants that she does not have or cannot share at this point. She said this person's prices are reasonable.

August 30 – Home visit at Scotchtown

**Linda Hazelwood** and **Emily Gianfortoni** conducted a home visit for the grounds around the cottage on the grounds at Scotchtown. They gave Laura and Dawn good information on invasive plants to remove, suggestions on pruning and dividing existing plants along with recommendations for new plants they will want to consider to add to the appearance of the grounds and cottage. Emily took many pictures and wrote a detailed report for Laura and Dawn on all of her findings.

**Communications - Betty Jane Hughes** - No news this month.

**Website - Katherine Hebert** - No report this month.

**Facebook Public Page (Hanover Master Gardener - Cooperative Extension) - September Sickinger** - I am happy to report that we have exceeded my goal to double our facebook page followers. We have gone from 44 in February to 91 as of September 18. Please follow the Page and share information and events. It will build our exposure to the public.

### **Home Garden Visits/Land Care Stewards - Linda Hazelwood (reporting) & Emily Gianfortoni -**

Carlsen Residence Visit

Date visited: August 27, 2023

Master Gardeners Attended: **Pattie Bland, Linda Hazelwood, Christy Brennan**

A residential homeowner's lot inspection and recommendations. After a complete interview of the homeowner and plant material, recommendations were made for soil testing, fertilization, mulching, proper pruning, relocating shrubs, and choosing new plant material. Several VT publications were furnished to address these issues.

Visit for Scotchtown Caretaker Cottage

Date Visited: August 30, 2023

Master Gardeners Attended: **Emily Gianfortoni, Linda Hazelwood, Doris Gullotta**

Scotchtown is located on approximately 45 acres. A caretaker's cottage is located behind the main house. The present tenant, Laurel Scott, requested assistance with identifying invasive plants,

recommendations for maintenance of the planting beds around the house, and suggestions for historic and native plants that bloom in the summer and fall and require low maintenance.

Identification and removal recommendations were made for Chinese privet, Asiatic bittersweet, English ivy, and poison ivy. Recommendations were made for adding native perennials, and low maintenance herbs. The property's appearance would be enhanced with a general clean up and removal of selected trees.

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

I have canceled our reservation with the church for 10/8/2023 and we will have a tour of Agriberry that night. This is limited to 22. Cost is \$5 per person. Signup on BI.

I am working on the speakers for 11/13 and 12/11. I have sent out several emails and left messages for suggested speakers. I hope to have someone talk about Tools on 11/13/2023.

### **Plant Sale - Pat Reyes**

No report.

### **MG Help Desk - Val Kish -**

The Help Desk quarterly report will come in October.

### **Speakers Bureau - Carol Brown**

We have received one recent request for a speaker. The Old Ivy Garden Club is looking for a speaker for their November and March meetings. The topics preferred are Lilies, bulbs, flowers in general, but not vegetables.

Location: 6100 Chamberlayne Ave. (UM church)  
 When: November 28, 2023 and March 26, 2024.  
 Time: Tuesday, 10:30-11:15-ish. (45 minutes speaker time).  
 There is a nice screen and a mic in the large meeting room.

I have been to a couple of the meetings when our master gardeners have spoken. This is a very sweet group of about 18-20 people. I'm sure the group would love to hear about daylilies, Wayne, or fascinating ferns, Ann Margaret, or marvelous mosses, Ronni.

Contact Carol for additional information at 804-247-7820 or email at c1b14@verizon.net

### **2024 MG Training Course - Ann Margaret White (reporting) and Joanne Einsmann -**

Applications for 2024 are live! If you know anyone interested in becoming a Hanover Master Gardener, please make sure they apply asap through our Hanover Master Gardener Association webpage. At last count, there were 14 applications submitted with more expected. Our cap this year is 20 trainees. We have early interviews scheduled on September 20th, and Open House on September 27th, and later interviews as needed. Thanks so much to **Angelette Pryor** for juggling all of the applications, to **Joanne Einsmann** for helping get BI ready for the Applications, to **Kate Sandy** and **Val Kish** for their advice as previous training coordinators, and to **Jon Philhower, Linda Hazlewood, Mike Little, Noel Oakes, Janice Thomas, Ronni McCord, Rowena Fratarcangelo, and Paula Willoughby** for help planning and executing our Open House. Can't wait until we get to meet our new trainees!