



## HMGA Activity Reports and Announcements for June 2023

Compiled June 19, 2023

### Announcements -

- June 29 Working with Youth training at the Extension Office
- July 10 HMGA meeting. Program on MG College.
- July 15 Village Garden tour
- **Joan Vandervort** was awarded a \$250 scholarship to MG College. Thank you, Joan, for being an active and enthusiastic MG..

### Horticulture Learning Center - Bob Durbin and Holly Owens -

Notes from the HLC Meeting 6/12/23

Attendees: Holly Owens, Katherine Herbert, Pat Reyes, Linda Hazelwood, Susan Warren, Lisa Willis, Susan Higgins, Laurel Hill, Wayne Bryant, Janice Thomas, Bob Durbin

The meeting began with everyone feeling excited about the progress of the HLC. All beds have been set up for planting and all but two beds have plants growing in them currently.

A brief review of the budget was discussed. Bob stated there was about \$5200 in cash and over \$6000 in in-kind donations given the HLC. A review of the grant status for REC, Lowes and KVB.

Holly, discussed the garden work schedule and entering information in BI. Holly also discussed a new procedure in the garden of completing an HLC daily record form which will record pertinent information on the status of the garden. Holly also mentioned the new storage area enclosed by fence panels, thanks to the efforts of Ed Hazelwood.

Bob stated we still have a commitment to accept a donated greenhouse which will need to be done in the next several weeks. Wayne thinks this donation will benefit the garden and Laurel stated she could have some young folks assist with the work of taking down and transporting the greenhouse.

The committee discussed adding more beds to the HLC. Bob mentioned that there are currently 19 beds in the garden. Wayne and Lisa suggested creating a pitcher plant bed in one of the small galvanized beds. The committee also discussed the importance of maintaining the garden and not overbuilding given their resources. In the end, the committee decided to add three more beds to HMGA, one of which would be a pitcher plant bed developed by Wayne and Lisa. The other two beds would be available for other master gardeners to develop.

Wayne and Holly talked about the meeting with county officials about the rain harvesting system. Eric Huff from the county suggested sticking with the roof plan and not pursuing the groundwater system that no one seems to comprehend. Bob mentioned that both grants that have been awarded have a completion date of November. The committee agreed to proceed with the tank pad and to reserve a tank at Tractor Supply.

The committee then turned their attention to the planting committee and entering plant ID information into the Google sheet Laurel had developed. Bob distributed several copies of soil tests that had been taken over the previous few weeks. A lengthy discussion was held about who would be responsible for adding soil amendments to the beds. It was decided that bed stewards would determine what amendments, if any, would be added to the beds. This could be done in collaboration with the HLC work crews. The HLC work crews would provide any disease and pest information to bed stewards to help them determine if any intervention would be necessary.

Holly reported that intern Ronni McCord had been working on bed steward tags and some plant identification tags for the beds. Everyone liked the idea of having different plant ID signs in the garden. Holly and Bob mentioned that a presentation on the HLC would be given at the picnic on the 17th. After the meeting, the three new garden beds were placed in the garden and Laurel added them to the garden grid format.

**Gleaning - Pattie Bland (Elaine Daniel, Corinna Muldowney, and Pattie Bland, Coord.)** - No opportunities available so far this season.

#### **Home Gardening Series - (Reported by Sandy Pence) -**

A Zoom meeting was held on May 23rd to discuss the Fall/Winter sessions of HGS. Several trainees are interested in organizing the sessions, and MGs are needed to partner with them.

#### **Virginia Cooperative Extension (VEC) – Angelette Pryor**

- 4 H overnight camp July 17-21, 2023 is full.
- South Anna 4 H club is sponsoring a bed in the HLC – theme will be butterfly attracting plants
- Slow response to the well water clinic but MGs were able to give away extra plants the day of sample drop off. The public donated ~ \$30 for the extra plants via the donation box. Thank you to **Jane White** and **Holly Owens** for helping. Plants came from **Ellen and Joe Thompson**, trainees from 2022 class.
- Five Hanover MGs attended MG College: **Joan VanDervort** and **Mike Little** attended Tree Steward training. **Pattie Bland**, **Christy Brennan**, and **Angelette** also attended. We plan to share info at the HMGA meeting in July. Sessions are always amazing and the networking is fantastic!
- 2022 Milestone Awards will be mailed as the pins have not arrived from the vendor yet (supply chain issues remain)
  - 250 awards: Jennifer Baker, Katrina Hart, Elaine Miller, Kate Sandy, Rosemary Wilkinson
  - 500 awards: Susan Doran, Jon Philhower, Jane White
  - 4000 award: Val Kish
- HLC continues to look beautiful and continues to generate community interest
- History and Hops was well attended by MGs in period dress to discuss historical vegetables
- Ashland Strawberry Faire – well attended – theme was strawberry DNA

- 2023 Interns are volunteering at a great pace and many are close to completion of 50 hours and only needing state fair planning to complete hours.
- State Fair planning zoom July 12, 2023 6:30 by ZOOM
- HGS needs MG support – it has great Intern support – next planning meeting is June 20, 2023 6:30 by zoom
- **Lisa Wilis** is on a mission to update the plant clinic boxes. If anyone has suggestions please communicate with Lisa.
- The Tomato Festival was just added to BI – sign up soon! **Ed Wall** is once again lead and has some beautiful plants for the booth.
- Master Gardeners are reminded they need at least 2 hours in HLC during 2023. This can be planning or boots on the ground. Don't wait too late to get your hours!
- And speaking of hours... enter... enter...enter...
- New floors for Extension office project date has been moved up to fiscal year 23-24. Anticipated time is July/August 2023.
- The Hanover Spirit of Volunteerism Award Ceremony was a popular event with many MGs in attendance. The table centerpieces, created by the BOD, were a hit with the public. The centerpieces included information on the Hanover MGs and the HLC.

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

Three grants have been awarded this year. The Association is currently evaluating the grant process and will not accept any new applications until the evaluation is complete. If you are interested in participating in the evaluation process or becoming involved in this Activity, there will be opportunities in the future.

#### **Scotchtown Demo Gardens - Doris Gullotta -**

May 24 - Workday in all gardens

In the perennial gardens, primrose, butterfly weed, delphinium, nigella, tickseed and bell flowers are blooming. We marked the spent daffodils, so we know where to dig them up in the fall. We put tobacco plants in the fabric garden, added cotton and more hemp seeds.

For the kitchen garden, we cleaned out all the spring plants, many were going to seed. We planted seeds for the three sisters: corn, squash, and beans. We also added support poles for the beans. We planted seeds for black eyed peas and peanuts along with pepper and pumpkin plants. We removed more garlic chives and moved some lamb's ear. Two tomato plants were installed along with support poles.

Volunteers: **Doris Gullotta, Becky Blake, Paula Willoughby, Janet Bailey, Joanne Berdall.**  
Total of 13 volunteer hours.

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

#### **Website - Katherine Hebert**

There is not much to report this month. Regular site maintenance and updates have been completed as required. We did experience a malware issue that GoDaddy resolved for us.

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

Emily and Val Kish met with Lloyd Dunnivant at the Montpelier Center for Arts and Education on Tuesday, June 13th. Dunnivant asked them to recommend ways to improve the overgrown garden behind the building.

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

We had a wonderful time visiting **Wayne and Terri Bryant's** garden. Wayne's main interest is daylilies, while Terri's is hostas. Pitcher plants are another of their passions. It was a pleasure to see so many of them. In keeping with Wayne's generous nature, we all went home with plants from their garden. Twenty two of us visited the garden, and seventeen of us went to lunch afterwards. Thank you, Wayne and Terri, for a wonderful visit.

On July 10, 2023, the HMGA will host a member meeting with informal presentations and conversations with Master Gardener College attendees. We will learn about the education and experiences of those who attended. Two of our MGs attend the Tree Steward training and will share their newfound knowledge and the project they will develop as a requirement of the training.

We will have a tour of the Village Garden on July 15, 2023 in Mechanicsville. Check out this article on the garden: [https://enformeva.com/food-and-spirits/priceless-heirlooms-life-love-and-tomatoes-in-mechanicsville/article\\_832bf05e-96a4-11ed-b516-c34b31ef6b99.html](https://enformeva.com/food-and-spirits/priceless-heirlooms-life-love-and-tomatoes-in-mechanicsville/article_832bf05e-96a4-11ed-b516-c34b31ef6b99.html)

### **Plant Sale - Pat Reyes (Reported by Sandy Pence)**

On the first Saturday of June Pat Reyes, Linda Hazzlewood, and I made our way to Henrico MG's Plant Sale in search of new ideas. Rumor was that they have very successful sales.

The sale was at Deep Run Park in a large Parks and Rec activity building. In a large room were plants for sale and garden tag sale items similar to ours. In a separate room there were educational booths with a plant clinic. (My new name is pop-up help desk.)

**The Henrico MGs report for their 2023 sale a gross earning of over \$13,000 and 1,000+ attendees.** Whow! Way to go.

My only take away was that they had more plants and a greater variety of plants. Lastly, we have homework to do if we want to increase our sales. Here is a link to their plant list: <https://www.henricomg.org/2023-plant-sale-list/>

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

The next quarterly report (April - June) of help desk contacts will be in July.

### **Help Desk Volunteers - (Reported from BI by Sandy Pence)**

Spring is a busy time for the help desk and the MG Interns are taking advantage of this wonderful learning experience. For the month of May MGs supporting interns were: **Emily Gianfortoni, Rosemary Wilkinson, Mike Little, Pat Skjei, Jane Copeland, Cindy Barrow, and Pat Bruker.** Interns were: **Sherri Prunty, Tyler Wallace, Holly Owens, Scott Bateman, Marianne Vermeer, Janice Thomas, Kathy Davis, and Alexis Miles.** Thank you volunteers!

**2023 MG Training Class (MGTC) -** Plans have begun for next year's class.

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

The HLC garden maintenance team is now weeding the garden. Thank You!

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

The migrating monarchs devoured all of the swamp milkweed plants. The garden looks great despite the dry weather. The hardy native plants make a big difference in need for water.

**Speakers Bureau - Carol Brown**

Joan Corfield of the Clay Spring Garden Club has requested a list of topics for an hour-long talk at an upcoming meeting. I have sent her a list of popular topics. Joan VanDerVort will speak at the Canterbury Garden Club in Henrico in February 2024 on Hydrangeas. She will also speak at the Hanover Towne Garden Club in Mechanicsville in March 2024. I have just received a request from the Hanover Adult Day Care Center for a speaker to talk about growing vegetables and flowers in a small space. I will contact them to discuss the date, time, and other details.