



GRAPEVINE



New River Valley Master Gardener Association Newsletter

March/April 2014



Celebrating 100 Years of Extension!

This year marks the 100 year anniversary of the National Cooperative Extension System, a state-by-state network of educators who extend university-based knowledge to the people in their communities. The Smith-Lever Act which created the CES was signed on May 8, 1914. Events are being held all over the nation to celebrate the value of CES and the impact of CES on communities throughout the country

Local Showcases and Open House

Local centennial events include an Extension Centennial Showcase on May 8 from 1:30 to 4 pm in the Ag Quad between Price Hall and Seitz Hall on the Virginia Tech campus and an Open House at the Montgomery County VCE Office on Monday, May 12 from 4:30 to 7 pm (please RSVP by May 7 to Margarita Palomino at mrpalomi@vt.edu or 540-382-

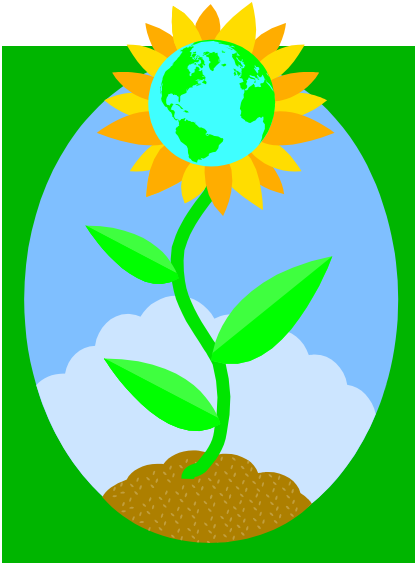
5790 if you plan to attend the Montgomery County VCE Open House). A luncheon is planned in Giles County on June 14 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Giles County Farm Bureau in Pembroke to celebrate Giles County Extension. Check the Virginia Cooperative Extension site at www.ext.vt.edu/news/centennial-news.html for updates on upcoming centennial events and articles about Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and volunteers.

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Jay Smith describes seed-starting techniques at Crows Nest Greenhouses.
Photo by Donna Fern.



New Beginnings

-Lynn Brammer, NRVMG Co-President

The NRVMG **welcomes the trainees** into the fold and is so proud of each and every one for their commitment. We all remember that weariness as you come down the homestretch. Each training class is wonderful and informative, but two nights a week for four months is a big deal.

Now as your brains are about to explode with all your new found information we would love to share the many programs, projects, and grant sites that would benefit from your expertise. We encourage you to find projects that support your local community and give back to those in your neighborhood.

We are working hard to increase awareness throughout the New River Valley of the wonderful **benefits of community gardening**. What an asset you could be if

you know of some property and friends that share a common interest in growing their own food. Shared resources, tools, knowledge and fellowship can pay off for all involved. There is a community garden in Christiansburg established and ready for the season that has openings and could use guidance. Micah's Garden in Blacksburg also has some space. Please join in spreading the word about all that Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners have to offer to assist in making these gardens a success. Remember there are internal mini grants available if you would want to connect or establish a community garden and lend your expertise.

And then we like to have fun too! Our hardworking vice president Donna Fern has created a calendar of events for the coming year that offers **something for everyone**. As we gather at the May 9th graduation please take advantage of the opportunity to mingle and hear from the various members where they focus their volunteer efforts. From Master Gardener College to Share the Spare to volunteer night at the Hahn, there are many ways to begin your experience as a Master Gardener. And even more important is connecting with our youth and watching them learn what a wonderful world of beauty and delight gardening can become. We look forward to seeing each of you in May!

This was written on Earth Day...hug your Mother! Cheers!

Rain Barrel Workshop Great Success

- Donna Fern, NRVMG Vice President

The Rain Barrel Workshop held on March 15 at the Montgomery County Government Center in Christiansburg was an educational event open to the public. Led by Stan Stanley, more than twenty participants and volunteers learned how to build a rain barrel from a recycled pickle barrel. Stan shared his knowledge of collecting and storing rainwater for use in the garden.

Rain barrels for sale

Thirteen of the twenty barrels assembled were sold at the event. The remaining rain barrels will be sold at the NRVMG Plant Sale at the Montgomery County Government Center in Christiansburg on May 10 from 10 am to 2 pm. You may also purchase a rain barrel by contacting Donna Fern at 336-380-5242.

The rain barrels are being sold starting at \$75 each. Funds raised will be used for NRVMG community gardening grants. Some barrels are painted and/or decorated. Unpainted barrels are also available and may be custom painted to match your home. The rain barrels are approximately 42 inches tall by 22 inches wide and hold over 50 gallons.

New River Valley Master Gardeners 2014

As of April 1, New River Valley
Master Gardeners, devoted
more than **860 service
hours** to the community,
completed more than

130 educational hours
& have more than **60 active
projects.**



Lilac in bloom at the Hahn Garden. Photo by Cheryl Heisey.

PLANT SALE 2014

Saturday, May 10th, 10 am– 2 pm
Montgomery County Government Center
Christiansburg

Help is needed before, during and after the sale on May 9 and 10. Contact Maureen Fallon, Plant Sale Team Chairperson, at mofallon56@gmail.com or 540-392-1581 to sign-up.

If donating plants, please send Maureen a list of plants you will donate and approximate number. Remember each plant needs a plant description card. Drop off plants at the Government Center May 9 after the Graduation Potluck or May 10 from 7:30-8:30 am.

Fundraising and Fun-raising

Sharing the Rewards of Gardening

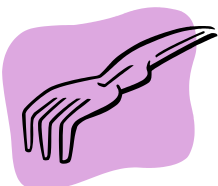
-Maureen Fallon, NRVGMA Co-President & 2014 Plant Sale Team Chairperson

On Easter I was with my new granddaughter “Piper” in North Carolina. I helped out with household chores, cooking, laundry, watching Piper while my daughter Courtney caught cat naps when she could. I worked in her garden, pulling weeds, turning the clay soil, adding amendments and popping in petunias here and there. It was such a gratifying experience. Courtney told me her husband hated yard work. Why does he think it is work, I wondered? I find it to be exercise, design, creativity, calming, meditative and overall, a task that rewards for a season, or sometimes years.

I thought about the years I taught horticulture as an instructor of vocational agriculture classes at the local middle and high schools. When we decided to make a garden in front of the school sign, the students experienced how a bare square of southwest Virginia dirt could be transformed into friable soil, capable of bringing forth colorful flowers. They were not just learning how to handle a shovel or transplant a bedding plant. It was something to be proud of, a delightful scene to look at and boast “I helped do that”. Many students had never had that opportunity.

Some of the students complained about the segment on lawn care and garden design. When I asked them to draw their yard on graph paper, several informed me they did not have a yard. They did not have grass. They lived in an apartment, or a trailer park. My initial goal was to teach them to sketch a landscape design. I was naïve in thinking they all had yards like I did, and thankfully the students were honest. We came to a compromise by using a design involving the actual school building. Then I applied for grants and we were able to transform the bleak asphalt and grass area outside the cafeteria into an inviting social area surrounded by paths, herb gardens, trees, shrubs and perennials. The students, along with the generous help from a parent, helped install the plants. We were partially funded by a grant from the NRVGMA. I was able to bring the entire process of teaching in the classroom to an actual hands-on activity that aligned with curriculum goals, improved the school, inspired students, and instilled pride in every student that worked on the project for years to come.

I remembered, too, that my mother taught me to garden, and what a blessing it has been to have this wonderful lifelong hobby. For some of us it’s an obsession, some a reason to explore and travel, others a career, others a way to gaze upon the “work” of others, and just relax. I feel so good about being a member of the NRVGMA, and that through our efforts with the Plant Sale, we can offer grant money to members of the community who want to reach out to the future generations of gardeners.



Thank you for your generous support of the NRVGMA Plant Sale and our community gardening grants program. Going forward with this year’s sale is exciting. The plant sale team has many good ideas, some we may keep and some we will modify in future years no doubt, but hopefully we will have an increase in the funds available for community gardening grants in 2014.

Upcoming NRV MGA Events

Graduation & Milestone Awards Potluck

Friday, May 9 at 6:00 pm

First Floor Multipurpose Room, Montgomery County Government Center, Christiansburg

Join us to congratulate our new trainees and socialize during dinner. Milestone awards will also be presented. Please bring your own plates and utensils and a dish to share. Drinks will be provided. The Plant Sale will be held the following day, Saturday May 10 in the parking lot of the Montgomery County Government Center from 10 am to 2 pm.



NRVMGA Party Social at Historic Price House

Friday, May 23, 6:00-8:00 pm

107 Wharton Street, Blacksburg

Come see the iris garden in bloom and enjoy an evening socializing with friends! Director Mike Rosenzweig will give us a tour of the Blacksburg Nature Center located in the Historic Price House and run by the SEEDS program. Bring your own folding chairs, beverages and finger foods to share as we spend some time together in this beautiful outdoor area highlighted by lawns, large shade trees, and a large iris garden. Spouse, partners may attend this social event. Parking will be available in the gravel lot at the corner of Clay and Wharton streets.

Visit to Home Garden of Delbert Jones

Wednesday, June 18 at 6:30 pm

3245 Ladyslipper Lane, Blacksburg

Our own fellow Master Gardener Delbert Jones has agreed to host our group at his home. Delbert and Johanna have an extensive home garden. Delbert will share his experiences growing specialty items such as mosses and gourds. He will also instruct us in seed collection and preservation. His home is located in McCoy, about nine miles or a 20 minute drive from Virginia Tech. Carpooling information will follow by email.

From 460 bypass, turn west onto Price's Fork Road. Travel 3.7 miles and turn right onto Route 654 (Brooksfield Road). Travel 1.5 miles and turn left onto Route 655. After 2.2 miles, turn right to stay on Route 655 and then continue onto Route 781. Travel 1.9 miles and take a left onto Route 708. Travel 0.2 miles and take a right on Ladyslipper Lane. The home is on the left.

Recovery Center Garden Visit

NRV Community Services

Thursday, July 17th at 6:30 pm

Our July General Membership Meeting will be held at the new Recovery Garden location. Come and learn about the value of gardening through a different perspective. Location and directions to follow via email. The Recovery Center Garden is one of our 2014 Community Projects receiving funding. The Recovery Center is run by NRV Community Services and offers psychological rehabilitation to adults diagnosed with mental health disorders. Last year approximately 20 members of the Recovery Center were involved in various stages of the garden, learning new skills. Gardening led to enhanced knowledge of healthy diets and nutrition as well as strengthening social networks. NRV MGA has helped fund the continuation of the garden through 2014.

Planning Ahead

- Visit to Home Garden of Steve Hale, Pulaski County on Thursday August 21st
- Tour of Pandapas Pond Pollinator Gardens, Blacksburg on Thursday September 18th
- Floyd HS Vermicomposting Project Tour, Floyd on Thursday October 16th

Feel free to contact Donna Fern at 336-380-5242 or vafern3@gmail.com if you have any questions.



NRV MGs tour Crows Nest Greenhouses.
Photo by Donna Fern.

Visit to Crow's Nest Greenhouses

- Donna Fern, NRVMG Vice President

More than 25 NVMGA members attended the April General Membership meeting at Crow's Nest Greenhouses in Blacksburg on March 20. Owner Jay Smith shared the challenges of operating a retail nursery. He gave members insight into the preparations that go into each growing season and the costs of dealing with unpredictable spring weather patterns. Members were given a tour of greenhouses packed full of beautiful bedding plants and hanging baskets, some already in bloom!

Something for every season

Crow's Nest Greenhouses offer annuals, veggie plants, herbs, trees, shrubs, berry plants and over 300 varieties of perennials. They also sell seasonal produce and have pumpkins and mums for sale in the fall and wreaths, trees and poinsettias for holiday decorating.

Registration is open!

27th Annual VCE Master Gardener College

June 25-29, 2014

Virginia Tech

Registration for Master Gardener College 2014 is now available at www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener. Featured speakers this year include:

Felder Rushing	<i>Slow Gardening</i>
Cole Burrell	<i>Nature's Sustainable Systems</i>
Frank Reilly	<i>Land Care: What Can You Do Now?</i>
Joe Murray	<i>How We Hurt The Trees We Love</i>
Fred Turck	<i>Lets Talk Firewise</i>

The program includes more than 34 concurrent sessions as well as half and full day workshops. There will be tours of local gardens and the option to float the New River from Eggleston to Pembroke and bike through the Paint Bank area.

Contact Wendy Silverman at wss@vt.edu if you'd like to help. Volunteers are needed as greeters, van drivers and moderators.

Good Gardening Practices

Virginia Cooperative Extension publications are a valuable source of information for use in our own home gardens, at our project sites, and to share with our community when working at the help desk or at plant clinics and other gardening seminars and events.

Food Safety for School and Community Gardens: A Handbook for Beginning and Veteran Garden Organizers (FST-60P) at <http://pubs.vt.edu/FST/FST-60.html> includes gardening practices that reduce food safety risks in vegetable gardens.



Therapeutic Gardening (HORT-66) at <http://pubs.vt.edu/HORT/HORT-66/HORT-66-PDF.pdf> includes exercises to tone up for gardening after the long winter indoors and tools and techniques to save your back, knees and wrists.

The information we share as Master Gardeners regarding pest management should come from the Virginia Cooperative Extension **2014 Pest Management Guide**. The guide is available on-line in PDF format as three volumes:

- **Home Grounds and Animals (456-018)** at <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018>
- **Field Crops (456-016)** at <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-016>
- **Horticultural and Forest Crops (456-017)** at <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-017>



Grow Herbs for a Yummy Summer

- Penny Tully, MG Class of 2013

Gardeners are drawn to the field (or the yard or the potting bench) for a variety of reasons—beauty, bounty, scent, even exercise.

I confess my interest in gardening began when I realized I didn't know the difference between basil and oregano. So, I started an herb garden outside my grad school basement apartment to become familiar with their smells, tastes and growing habits.

What an eye-opener! Fresh herbs make a big difference in cooking and add a dimension to the garden that provides color and texture.

Here are some pesto recipes adapted from Cook's County magazine (June-July 2011) that may encourage you to try herbs this year in your kitchen garden. Both annual and perennial plants are available at most local outlets. When you're addicted to using fresh herbs you may also want to try growing some unusual varieties from seed.

Traditional Pesto

3 medium garlic cloves, unpeeled
1/4 cup pine nuts (pignoli)
2 cups fresh basil leaves, washed and dried
5-6 Tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
Salt and pepper to taste

Toast garlic in skillet about 5 minutes over medium heat. Stir occasionally. Cloves will be fragrant and skins will start to brown. Add pine nuts to skillet and cook 2-3 minutes more. Transfer to a small bowl. Peel garlic when cool and discard skins. Whirl peeled garlic, nuts, basil, cheese, olive oil and 1/2 teaspoon salt in food processor until smooth. Adjust seasonings to taste.

Oregano-Lemon Pesto

Substitute 1/4 cup washed and dried fresh oregano leaves for 1/4 cup of the fresh basil and 1-2 ounces of feta cheese for the Parmesan in the Traditional Pesto recipe. Add 1/2-3/4 teaspoon grated lemon zest and 2 Tablespoons lemon juice to the food processor. Proceed with the recipe as for Traditional Pesto.

Cilantro-Lime Pesto

Substitute pistachios for the pine nuts, washed and dried fresh cilantro for the basil and Pecorino Romano for the Parmesan in the Traditional Pesto recipe. Add 1/2-3/4 teaspoon grated lime zest and 1-2 Tablespoons lime juice to the food processor. Proceed with the recipe as for Traditional Pesto.

These recipes make 3/4 cup and will dress 1 pound of pasta. Try pesto instead of mayonnaise on a sandwich or drizzle it in soup. Pesto will keep several days in the refrigerator or can be frozen with a thin layer of olive oil on top.

LONGWOOD GARDENS

-Donna Fern, NRVGMA Vice President

In March I was able to visit Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania about 30 minutes west of Philadelphia. A gray Saturday gave way to a colorful array of flowers as we viewed the Orchid Extravaganza in the warm Conservatory. Lush lawns were edged by overflowing borders, and huge baskets dripping with blooms hung from the towering ceilings. Artful arrangements welcomed us at every turn as we toured the expansive venue.

I look forward to a return trip to tour the grounds in summer.



Longwood Gardens Conservatory. Photo by Donna Fern.

Save the Date!

Pulaski County Town & Country Garden Tour

- Sharon Eifried, MG Class of 2011

The Pulaski County Town and Country Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2014 from 10 am to 4 pm. The tour includes five beautiful home gardens in Pulaski County and three gardens at the Pulaski County Library. At the Library there is a pass-a-long garden, a shade garden and a unique zoo garden.



Tickets and Door Prizes

Advance tickets, along with a brochure with the addresses of all the gardens and directions to each, will be on sale at the Pulaski County Library on 60 W. 3rd St. in Pulaski and at the Charles & Ona B. Free Memorial Library on 300 Giles Ave. in Dublin. Tickets are \$10 and will admit you to all the gardens and enter you into a drawing for door prizes. The door prizes will be displayed at the Library in Pulaski on the day of the tour. The drawing will be on Monday, June 30, 2014 and the winners will be notified. If you have not gotten your ticket beforehand, tickets will also be available at all the gardens on the day of the tour.

Sponsors

The Garden Tour is sponsored by both the Friends of the Pulaski County Library and the New River Valley Master Gardener Association. Both organizations will share 50/50 in any profits earned. Information regarding the specific locations of the gardens will soon be available on the Pulaski County Library web site at <http://www.pclibs.org>. For more information please call Mickey Balconi at 540-320-8654 (cell) or 540-980-3952 (home).

Want to help?

Master Gardeners are needed to help out on the day of the tour. If you would like to volunteer please call Mickey at the above numbers. Also, if you or someone you know has a door prize item to donate, please contact Sharon Eifried at seifried@towson.edu.

Planning a vegetable garden

VCE PLANTING GUIDE & RECOMMENDED PLANTING DATES

Knowing when to plant your vegetable seeds and transplants and how to best organize your rows and plots are important for gardening success. Knowing how much to plant for the yield you desire can also help when it comes to harvest time.



How much to plant?

Information on determining the approximate amount to plant for the desired yield, the amount of seed or number of transplants required for the desired yield, and proper spacing between plants in conventional gardens and in raised-bed gardens are included in the Virginia Cooperative Extension Planting Guide and Recommending Planting Dates (426-331) publication at http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-331/426-331_pdf.pdf.

When to plant in the New River Valley?

The Vegetable Planting Dates Chart for Montgomery County and the New River Valley was recently updated. The complete new version is available on the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension website at <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/montgomery/whats-new/2014-planting-dates.pdf>.

What You May Not Know About the Floral Industry

- Ellen Burch, MG Intern Class of 2014

Flowers are big business

As gardeners, we appreciate beautiful flowers. All of us have probably given or received bouquets from a local florist, grocery or big-box store. More than two thirds of the cut flowers sold in the U.S. today come from South America (primarily Colombia and Ecuador). In 1967, David Cheever, a graduate student in horticulture from Colorado State University wrote a paper suggesting areas around Bogotá and Cotopaxi were perfect for growing cut flowers. Little to no energy was needed to supply heat and light during the winter, labor was cheap and proximity to the U.S. made shipping easy. Cheever started a flower-growing business in Colombia in 1969 and many other companies soon followed. If you have access to Google Earth, look at the area around Facatativá, Colombia, particularly to the northeast and southeast of town. This will give you an idea of the extent of these flower-growing facilities.

Social and environmental impacts

When the Andean Trade Preference Act was signed in 1991 as part of the U.S. government's "war on drugs," cut flowers from Colombia and Ecuador became exempt from U.S. import tariffs. You can imagine how much this hurt U.S. flower growers. What you may not imagine is how much our demand for inexpensive, imported flowers continues to hurt everyone involved. Because we demand perfect, pest-free flowers, growers in Colombia and Ecuador have tremendous economic incentive to treat their flowers with pesticides. Some of these toxic chemicals are restricted or banned in the U.S., and flower imports are not tested for pesticide residues. The workers, mostly women and children, are not always provided adequate protective clothing when working in greenhouses frequently sprayed with toxic chemicals. Runoff from greenhouses may contaminate well water. Other impacts include depletion of aquifers due to high demand for water and the cutting of trees for the manufacture of boxes, crates and pallets used to transport flowers. Consider also the ribbons, tapes, floral foam, balloons and thousands of plastic containers used by the floral industry and then thrown away.

So what can we do?

Well, we're gardeners, right? We can grow flowers for our loved ones and for ourselves. We can also support local and national organic and sustainable flower growers like those listed in the sidebar.

References

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- Mercola, D. 2014. *Cut flowers – a major yet little-known source of toxic pesticides*. <http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2014/02/11/cut-flower-pesticides.aspx>
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- TED Case Studies World Intellectual Property Organization. www1.american.edu/ted/rose1.htm



Flower farms in Virginia

Stonecrop Farm – Newport, VA.
Blacksburg Farmer's Market
www.stonecropfarmers.com

Pleasant Hill Farm — Max Meadows, VA.
Cut your own. www.pleasanthillfarm.com

Flower Fields – Raphine, VA.
flowerfields.webs.com

Greenstone Fields – Purcellville, VA.
www.greenstonefields.com

Ted's Last Stand – Gordonsville, VA. <http://tedslaststand.com>

Wollam Gardens – Jeffersonton, VA.
www.wollamgardens.com

The Gardener's Workshop – Newport News, VA. Sustainable, organic flowers.
www.thegardenersworkshop.com

Nationwide delivery

California Organic Flowers – 100% certified organic. Next day delivery nationwide. <https://californiaorganicflowers.com>

Organic Bouquet – sustainably produced flowers from the U.S. and South America.
www.organicbouquet.com

Veriflora – certified sustainably grown flowers and plants. www.veriflora.com



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Share the Spare

- Lynn Brammer, NRVMGGA Co-President

Share the Spare has a booth at the downtown Blacksburg Farmers Market every Saturday from 8 am to 2 pm from late May until September. We ask those shopping the market to consider buying just one extra item and dropping it off in our basket. We give this collection to local food pantries who are the real heroes in this story. PlentyFresh! Food Bank and Dwelling Place Food Ministry are two groups we support. They understand this is perishable produce, and they make sure this healthy, locally grown food goes to those in need just as quickly as possible.

We also serve as a drop off point for anyone's own backyard garden surplus. Hey, when all those tomatoes come in at once and your neighbors say "No More" we are here to take the excess off your hands with the understanding it will be put to good use. We represent Cooperative Extension at the market and serve as a Plant Clinic as well, answering questions about gardening and the Master Gardener program.

One of the most beautiful things I've observed through Share The Spare is the generosity of folks. Few buy just one more tomato, they donate two or three or a carton of eggs. The generosity and community minded spirit involved has been absolutely inspiring. To see a parent explain to their child what we are doing and then watch that child place a bag of beans in our basket makes it the coolest project ever! I am an active hawk when it comes to something I feel strongly about and so I have no problem letting people know our mission and encouraging them to help me spread the word.

Join me at the market!

Watch for my weekly sign up lists by email if you'd like to help. If you enjoy interacting and spreading the word about gardening I encourage you to see for yourself what fun a Saturday at the market can be. I look forward to working with you on this fun and "fruitful" project (get used to my bad puns).



www.facebook.com

- **Montgomery County Cooperative Extension - Agriculture & Natural Resources**
- **New River Valley Master Gardener Association**
- **Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program**



International Peace Garden at Virginia Tech.
Photo by Cheryl Heisey.

Trees are worth celebrating

-Cheryl Heisey, MG Class of 2013

Grow 2014: A Celebration of Trees was just the party I needed to carry me through the last long days of winter. Held at Virginia Military Institute on March 8 by the Rockbridge Master Gardeners, this horticultural symposium was a tribute to the beautiful old “noble” trees in our region and a reminder of what we can do to protect and plant trees for future generations to enjoy. Proceeds from the symposium benefited the Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden in Lexington.

Nancy Ross Hugo, author of *Remarkable Trees of Virginia* (2008), *Seeing Trees* (2011) and *Trees Up Close* (2014), shared photos and stories that made me want to travel Virginia in search of BIG trees, but also caused me to pause and appreciate the buds pushing out on the trees and shrubs in my own yard and marvel at the beautiful variations in bark, foliage and flowers.

Dr. Michael A. Dirr, plant innovator and author of the *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (2009, 6th edition) shared information on the many new varieties of trees and shrubs available to the home gardener and encouraged attendees to plant large noble trees that have the genetic potential to live hundreds of years. A white oak has the genetic potential to live 400 years or

more while a red maple has an average lifespan of only 80 to 100 years. Dirr praised noble trees for their aesthetics, CO₂ sequestration, shade, and benefits to our environment and to wildlife. Plus nobles trees are just inspiring and stir the soul! Dirr recommended the *Trees are the Answer!* web site at www.jfrankschmidt.com/treesaretheanswer for information on the care and selection of noble trees.

Virginia Tech’s old-growth forest

The status of Stadium Woods came up during a Q&A session at the symposium and NRV Master Gardener Donna Fern, also in attendance, was able to update the group on efforts to protect this 11.3 acre predominantly white oak old-growth forest on the Virginia Tech campus. Virginia Master Naturalists reported more than 57 trees over three feet in diameter and 213 white oaks over 12 inches in diameter in a 2011 inventory of Stadium Woods. Some of these trees are 300 to 400 years old. NRV Master Gardener Beth Umberger works with Master Naturalists in the area of Stadium Woods next to the International Peace Garden at the end of Clay Street in Blacksburg on Wednesdays from 10 am—2 pm removing nonnatives such as ivy, privet, garlic mustard, daylilies, burdock and multiflora rose from around the old trees. If you’d like to help, bring clippers, a shovel, and gloves with you. Your help is welcome even if you can only come once or just for an hour.

Sure sign of spring

NRV Master Gardener Ruth Ann Whitener captured this photo of a male American Goldfinch at the feeder outside her window sporting brilliant lemon yellow, a sure sign spring has arrived in the New River Valley.

To encourage goldfinches in your yard, offer black oil sunflower seed and thistle seed in feeders and let some dandelions and native thistles grow where they may. Goldfinches love the seed! Goldfinches also love the seed from native milkweed and goldenrod. Don’t cut all the dead flowers off your marigolds, zinnias, salvia, hyssop, blanket flower, bachelor buttons, cosmos, and purple coneflowers. Let some go to seed for the goldfinches.

Or, grow a patch of black oil sunflowers. Goldfinches will sit on the flowers and extract the seed!



Gardening Events In & Around the New River Valley

- May**
- 2-4 **17th Annual Mid-Atlantic Garden Faire**, Abingdon (<http://gardenfaire.net>)
 - 3 **Festival of Gardening**, The Aviary in Miller Park, Lynchburg, 8:30am-1 pm (www.hcmga.com)
 - 3 **Spring Seed and Plant Swap**, Blacksburg Library, 2 pm (Brenda Graff, graff_brenda@hotmail.com)
 - 3 **Plant Clinic at Earth Day Celebration**, EcoVillage, 718 Franklin Pike Rd SE, Floyd, 10 am-3:30 pm
 - 3 **Plant Clinic at Eastern Montgomery Garden Day**, Meadowbrook Center, Shawsville, 9 am-3 pm
 - 3 **Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop**, Hahn Garden Pavilion, 9-11:30 am (call Smithfield at 540-231-3947 to register)
 - 8 **VCE Day—Extension Centennial Showcase**, Ag Quad between Price & Seitz Halls, Virginia Tech, 1:30-4 pm
 - 9 **Graduation and Milestone Award Potluck**, Montgomery Co Government Center, Christiansburg, 6 pm
 - 10 **NRVMGA Plant Sale**, Montgomery County Government Center, Christiansburg, 10 am-2 pm
 - 10 **Plant Clinic at Depot Day**, Christiansburg, 10 am—4 pm
 - 10 **Plant Clinic at New River Valley Eco Expo**, Warm Hearth Village, B'burg, 10 am-4 pm (<http://retire.org/news>)
 - 10 **Hypertufa Workshop**, Hahn Garden Pavilion, 9 am-12 noon (registration info at www.hort.vt.edu/hhg)
 - 12 **Montgomery Co Extension Open House**, Montgomery Co Govt Center, Christiansburg, 4-7 pm
 - 16 **Plant Clinic at Draper Mercantile**, 3054 Greenbriar Rd, Draper, 4—6 pm
 - 21 **Plant Clinic at Virginia Tech Staff Appreciation Day**, Rector Field House, 9 am-3 pm
 - 21 **Community Gardens eXtension webinar**, 12:30 pm (<https://learn.extension.org>)
 - 23 **NVRMGA Party Social at Historic Price House**, 107 Wharton Street, Blacksburg, 6:00-8:00 pm
 - 24 **Innovative Home Composting**, Hahn Garden Pavilion, 10-11:30 am (registration info at www.hort.vt.edu/hhg)
- June**
- 14 **Celebrating Giles County Extension Display and Demo**, Giles County Farm Bureau, Pembroke, 10am-2 pm
 - 14 **10th Annual Garden Gala**, Hahn Horticulture Garden, Virginia Tech (ticket info at www.hort.vt.edu/hhg)
 - 18 **NRVMGA General Meeting**, Delbert Jones' home, 3245 Ladyslipper Lane, Blacksburg, 6:30 pm
 - 28 **Pulaski County Town and Country Garden Tour**, 10 am-4 pm (www.pclibs.org)
 - 25-29 **27th Annual Master Gardener College**, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg (www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener)
- July**
- 12 **New River Valley Garden Tour**, 9 am-5 pm (www.newrivervalleygardentour.org)
 - 17 **NRVMGA General Meeting**, Recovery Center Garden, 6:30 pm



Service Opportunities In the Garden

There is really no place I'd rather be this time of year than in a garden! We are fortunate to have many public gardens in the New River Valley that not only beautify our region but also serve as demonstration gardens and educational tools. NRV Master Gardeners do a lot of planting, weeding, deadheading and trimming to help keep these public gardens looking good. Work sessions are in now in full swing! A few of the public gardens served by NRV Master Gardeners are included below along with the person to contact if you'd like to help.

Project	Day/Time	Contact Name	Email	Phone
Montgomery Museum Garden	Varies	Beth Umberger	fredandbeth@verizon.net	540-382-1580
Hahn Horticulture Garden	Mon 5-7 pm	Stephanie Huckenstein	vtgarden@vt.edu	540-231-5970
Smithfield Plantation	Wed 10 am	Ini Beckman	inibeckman@yahoo.com	540-552-2873
Pandapas Pond Pollinator Habitat	Varies	Barbara Walker	bwalker02@fs.fed.us	540-552-4641
International Peace Garden	Mon mornings	Ann Stith	virginiaannstith@gmail.com	540-553-4161

I heard it through the *Grapevine* ... NRVMGGA MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES

New River Valley Master Gardener Association Board Meeting
Hahn Garden Pavilion, Virginia Tech
February 20, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Co-President Maureen Fallon.

In attendance: Maureen Fallon, Lynn Brammer, Susan and Bob Lockwood, Donna Fern, Evelyn Melia, Connie Lawson, Wendy Silverman, Pete Imhoff, Nina Templeton. Nina was welcomed as the Member at Large from the current MG training class.

Minutes from January 9, 2014 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report was approved. We will need to reapply for 501(c)3 status this year.

Old Business:

Wendy will make an announcement at the general meeting that memberships are due and shirt/apron sales will close this evening. It was decided that our NRVMGGA logo is OK to put on the shirts, but we should promote the state MG logo when possible.

A Plant Sale organizational meeting will be held February 25, 5:30 pm at the Government Center in Christiansburg. A list of donors has been found and will be presented for volunteers to start to contact.

New Business:

Committee Chairs are chosen from the Board. It was recommended that each Board Member read the by-laws to become familiar with them and member responsibilities to the association. Committee Chairs already in place:

Grants	Donna Fern, Maureen Fallon, Rosemarie Sawdon, Sherry Walker
Nominating	Lynn Brammer, Evelyn Melia
Fund Raising	Maureen Fallon
Finance	Pete Imhoff
Communications	open
History/Record Retention	open
Programs	Donna Fern, Lynn Brammer
Membership	Evelyn Melia
Members at Large	Susan Lockwood, Evelyn Melia, Phyllis Eschenmann, Nina Templeton, Sam Bell

Donna Fern is looking for liaisons for the Grant projects. Those projects led by MG's do not need another liaison. The liaison will provide a monthly update to the Board. Current Grants/Liaisons:

YMCA Children's Garden, Pulaski	Sharon Efried
NRV Juvenile Detention Center	Wendy Silverman
NRV Recovery Garden, Radford	Bob Lockwood
Micah's Garden, Blacksburg	Lynn Brammer
Garden Programs, GL, Bburg	Phyllis Eschenmann
4-H Programs, Pulaski	Liaison needed
Vermicomposting, Floyd	Liaison needed
Garden For Special Ed, Cburg	Liaison needed

Evelyn Melia has secured a donation from a local donor who wants to put money into a community project.

Maureen Fallon suggested that we look into updating/improving our current website. She suggested that the board members take a look at the Bedford MG site for ideas.

Donna Fern presented some tentative dates/plans for upcoming activities:

March 20	"How to" for Plant Clinics and Plant Sales, Gov't Building, Cburg
April 17	Crow's Nest Greenhouse, Blacksburg
April ?	Rain Barrel Workshop?
May 9	MG Graduation and Potluck, Gov't Building, Cburg
May 10	NRVMGA Plant Sale, Gov't Building, Cburg
May 30	Garden Party at Price House, Blacksburg
June 19	Garden Visit, Delbert Jones, McCoy
July 17	Radford Recovery Garden, Radford City

MINUTES February 20, 2014 (CONTINUED)

August 21 Garden Visit, Steve Hale, Pulaski County
September 18 Pandapas Pond Visit, Montgomery County
October 16 Floyd HS Vermicomposting, Floyd County
November 21 End of Year Potluck, Government Center, Christiansburg

Other dates were considered for projects and are still up to finalizing.

Upcoming dates:

March 7-9 Home Garden Show, Christiansburg Rec Center
April 5 Kids Tech, Carol Eggleston and Phyllis Eschenmann are contacts.
April 26 Fun and Family Fitness Day, Cburg HS, Lynn Brammer contact

Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Kirby, Secretary

MINUTES

New River Valley Master Gardener Association Board Meeting
Greenhouse Classroom, Virginia Tech
March 13, 2014

Called to order at 5:30 pm by Co-President Maureen Fallon. In attendance: Pete Imhoff, Bob and Susan Lockwood, Donna Fern, Evelyn Melia, Beth Kirby

The minutes from February 20 were amended to show the Committee Chairs for the following committees: Grants-Donna Fern; Nominating-Evelyn Melia; Programs-Donna Fern. The amended minutes were approved.

The treasury report was presented by Pete Imhoff. The account balance is 5192.81. All the checks from the grants have been recorded. There was an unknown deposit of \$20 (for membership?). An effort will be made to find the member who paid it. The treasurer's report was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Plant Sale: Maureen had a quote from Signarama for a weather proof 3' X 5' banner for the plant sale to be hung out in front of the government building the day of the sale. Discussion about "road signs" saying "Master Gardener Plant Sale Ahead" ensued. \$250.00 expenditure was approved for both the banner and road signs. Discussion about how to advertise in the 'Burgs: decided to mail in pictures weekly to the paper for the community announcement section: Rain Barrel Workshop, A donor promo, Plant clinic. Erica has volunteered to make stand alone signs for the various plant types for the sale. We will hold on solicitations for the plant sale until mid-April. We will ask if Master Gardener Plant Sale flyers can be placed at the project sites to advertise the sale.

Programs: Donna confirmed Delbert Jones on June 18. The Radford Recovery Center outing may be in Pulaski due to construction at the Radford facility. Date for the Garden Party Social remains undetermined. Discussion about varying the day of the week for the general meetings—has been a request from some members. Will be placed for future discussion.

Grants: Sam Bell has agreed to be liaison for the Floyd County HS Vermiculture project. The committee has received one mini-grant proposal. It was moved that once the grants committee has approved the grant, the board approval be done via email to expedite the expenditure. Approved.

Directory: Evelyn has been working on getting the 2014 Member Directory together for publication. It will include the 2011 By-Laws. May want to use a plant type photograph in the booklet—will it be more expensive to print? Evelyn will check.

Grants: Sam Bell has agreed to be liaison for the Floyd County HS Vermiculture project. The committee has received one mini-grant proposal. It was moved that once the grants committee has approved the grant, the board approval be done via email to expedite the expenditure. Approved.

Directory: Evelyn has been working on getting the 2014 Member Directory together for publication. It will include the 2011 By-Laws. May want to use a plant type photograph in the booklet—will it be more expensive to print? Evelyn will check.

NEW BUSINESS:

Penny Tully asked that the plant sale/plant clinic meeting be videotaped to allow those who cannot attend the meeting to be able to benefit from the talk. The video could be placed on YouTube for future reference. A camera will be sought to do this.

MINUTES March 13, 2014 (CONTINUED)

The bookmark Ini Beckman designed for the club needs to be updated. No decisions were made.

Evelyn has the sign-up sheet for those members who expressed an interest in being a part of committees. She will send the list to Maureen for evaluation.

Upcoming Dates:

- March 15 Rain Barrel Workshop, Stan Stanley, Gov't Building, Cburg;
- March 20 How to for plant clinics/plant sale, Gov't Building, Cburg
- April 10 Board Meeting, VT Greenhouse Classroom, 6:30 pm
- April 17 Crow's Nest Greenhouse, 6:30 pm, Blacksburg
- May 9 MG Graduation/Potluck, 6 pm, Gov't Building, Cburg
- May 10 NRVMDGA Plant Sale, 10-2, Gov't Building, Cburg

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Kirby, Secretary

MINUTES

New River Valley Master Gardener Association Montgomery County Government Center, Christiansburg March 20, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Lynn Brammer. An attendance sheet was circulated and each person, including several of this years' students, introduced him/herself.

Cheryl was not in attendance, but Lynn commended her hard work and creativity in producing the most recent Grapevine. She is looking for members interested in helping with the Grapevine or who would like to make submissions. THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT GRAPEVINE IS 4/22/14. It was also explained that there are two versions of the Grapevine: one for our internal use and the other with names removed that has been drawing attention beyond our local area, including statewide!

Lynn emphasized how many **MG PROJECTS** there are going on, locally and beyond, for example:

- Our rain barrel workshop led by Stan was a great success, and was an opportunity to educate many people from the community. 13 of the 20 rain barrels are already sold. We are looking for creative people who would like to paint one or more. This is a big source of revenue, along with our plant sale, for our grant program.
- Donna talked about our mini grant program, which awards up to \$100, with a total of \$1,000 available; so far one \$100 grant has been given to the C-Burg library.
- Most of our major projects have liaisons, but we still need someone to be the liaison for the program for special needs students at C-Burg Elementary School. This person would be a contact person with the teacher, get feedback, and help if needed.
- Beth Umberger explained that the Stadium Woods controversy is not over, and that we are encouraged to join a Master Naturalist effort to rid the woods of invasive species from 10-2 on Wednesdays.
- Lynn mentioned an educational outreach on 4/26 to help people better understand the gardening options in small spaces.
- Market Kids for 6-12 year olds through the Blacksburg Farmer's Market is looking for someone to speak.
- The Southside Garden Club would like someone to give a pruning demo.
- Share the Spare will again be at the Blacksburg Farmer's Market, and is an important way that we share information and food within our community.
- There will be seed exchanges on 4/13 at the C-Burg library and on 5/3 at the B-Burg library, both at 2 pm. Participants go home with the same amount as they bring.
- The Big Event at Tech will be on 4/6 this year. We are looking for people to be involved from MG.
- May 10 is a busy day with our plant sale, Depot Daze in C-Burg and event at Warm Hearth.

Our upcoming **PLANT SALE**, scheduled for MAY 10th was discussed in detail:

- This is an important educational opportunity and fundraiser for NRVMDGA. We are focusing on living plants this year. There will be a Plant Clinic in conjunction with the sale. Details coming soon to your email.

MINUTES March 20, 2014 (CONTINUED)

- Help is needed before, during, and after the sale. More info will be forthcoming.
- Susan Lockwood discussed donations and a letter for members to take to local merchants when discussing the sale and seeking donations. It is important that we coordinate so that merchants are not approached multiple times and that merchants are thanked after the plant sale.
- Sherry shared guidelines for plants that we contribute ourselves that were used when she was a MG in NC:
 - Plants should be healthy, and disease and insect free.
 - Plants should be in containers no larger than 1 gallon unless donated by a nursery.
 - Divide and pot your plants at least 2 weeks before the plant sale so they recover from transplanting.
 - Do not bring more than 5 pots of any one plant.
 - Try to bring plants that are difficult to find. They will be more interesting to the public and we can charge more for them.
 - Bring something that you would pay your hard earned money to have.
- Susan is hoping to have the sale totally organized, including a spread sheet listing all donations and labels for each plant at the sale giving information about that plant. We all need to pitch in.
- Wendy and Kelli also made some suggestions, including the possibility of potting up some perennials in fall so they will be well rooted for next year's plant sale. They never stop thinking and we are so fortunate to have them!

Wendy gave us training on the running of **MG PLANT CLINICS**. She emphasized that this is our face to the community and that we are acting as an outreach for Cooperative Extension. The plant clinic setup provides much take-home information for visitors to the plant clinic, and we are available to try and answer questions. We each need to know what is available and be sure that anything that is running low gets replaced. Wendy emphasized that we are to give only advice based on what is available through Cooperative Extension and that "I don't know" may be the most common answer given; getting the question to Extension, who will get back to the questioner is so much better than giving misinformation. She specifically mentioned that the outdated Ortho Home Gardener's Problem Solver is an excellent source for pictures, BUT current advice must come from the Pest Management Guide. Wendy also showed us the physical setup, including contents of boxes, and how to set up racks and the tents themselves. Hopefully now that we've set up the tents in the Gov't Bldg lobby, setting up onsite will be less daunting!

UPCOMING NRVMGGA MEETINGS:

- Next month, April 17th will be at Crow's Nest @ 6:30, when Jay has kindly agreed to show us around.
- May 9th is Graduation and Pot Luck for this year's MG students. 6PM. Gov't Building. Please come.
- June 18th (WED) will be at Delbert Jones' home in McCoy, for a tour/information of his fascinating gardens.

AND DON'T FORGET THE PLANT SALE ON MAY 10th!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nina Templeton (fill in for Beth Kirby, Secretary)

Addendum on Plant Sale:

Mo Fallon, the Plant Sale coordinator this year, who was not in attendance, has emailed more info on the upcoming Plant Sale. Her contact info is: mofallon56@gmail.com or 540-392-1581 (evenings). Additionally she says there are plenty of opportunities to help "if someone wants to volunteer to help out that day, or do another task as there are a lot of other volunteer management duties especially for the few days prior to the sale. Lynn is helping located businesses that will allow us to put up ad signs the day of the sale, we may need more help with that. Distribution of flyers is another task. I will be sending out an email specifically asking for more helpers about 1 month prior to the sale."

MINUTES

New River Valley Master Gardener Association

Crow's Nest Greenhouses

April 17, 2014

The general meeting of the New River Master Gardener Association was held on Thursday, April 17 at the Crow's Nest Greenhouses. The meeting was led by Co-President Lynn Brammer. There were approximately 25-30 members in attendance.

The MG graduation potluck will be held on May 9 at 6 pm at the Government Building in Christiansburg. All are invited to attend. Please bring your own plates and utensils to keep it GREEN. The membership directories will be available at that time. There will be a raffle basket so bring suitable garden items to donate. Donations for the plant sale can be dropped off before/after the dinner. Family Fun and Fitness program will be at the Christiansburg High School on Saturday, April 26 from 10-2. Lynn is looking for volunteers.

Master Gardener College schedule has been published. If you are interested in being a moderator/driver, contact Wendy.

The annual NRVMGA Plant sale is May 10 at the Government Building. The sale is 10-2, but help will be needed from 7a.m-close for set up/pricing/clean up. Contact Maureen Fallon

Lynn gave a presentation to the Mt. Tabor Ruritan, and they graciously donated \$200 and a jar of apple butter to the association. Look for the apple butter in the raffle basket!

Donna reported on upcoming dates:

May 23 Garden Social at the Price House in Blacksburg—more info to follow. This should coincide with the iris bloom.

June 18—Wednesday, The association meeting will be at the home of Delbert Jones in McCoy. He has a special interest in mosses and gourd.

Donna introduced our host/speaker Jay Smith of Crow's Nest Greenhouses. Jay gave a tour of the greenhouse facility with an explanation of the costs/trials/plans/production of a greenhouse business. Members were allowed to peruse his selection following the meeting.

MANY THANKS to Jay for his time and kindness in allowing us to visit!

Beth Kirby, Secretary

MINUTES

New River Valley Master Gardener Association Board Meeting

VT Greenhouse Classroom, Virginia Tech

April 20, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Co-President Maureen Fallon at 6:30 pm. In attendance: Maureen Fallon, Pete Imhoff, Donna Fern, Lynn Brammer, Beth Kirby, Javad Torabinajad.

The minutes from the March Board meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report was approved following a typographical correction. The current total balance is \$5183.84. Pete has not determined the source of the \$20 found last month.

OLD BUSINESS:

KIDS TECH: NO REPORT. Phyllis Eschenmann and Carol Eggleston were heading up.

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP: There was a good turn-out with 10 participants paying \$50 to learn how to create/then take home their own barrel. 13 Barrels were sold leaving only 7 for the plant sale. Several volunteers participated in the workshop. 5 of the barrels will be decorated for the plant sale and 2 will be left plain. Plain barrels will be \$75, decorated \$ pending designs

PLANT SALE: The permits for the signs have been obtained. Directional signs will be placed in front of 3 local businesses. The banner plan was revised to include double sided copy. With the increased printing, an amended appropriation for the banner was made to increase amount to \$350 to cover banner and small road signs.

Availability of canopy? Since there will be another plant clinic on the same day, will we have access to two canopies? Will check with Wendy.

Javad suggested putting the extension website on the plant identification cards. Beth is making a general notebook for all the vegetable plants that will be available and will make up signs for the veggie types to prevent the need of individually marking each plant.

The only plants that will need the ID cards are those that are donated by members—be sure members are aware of this requirement.

MINUTES April 20, 2014 (CONTINUED)

The Plant Team will meet to set prices and any other details that need to be worked out closer to the sale date. Maureen will send out a volunteer sign-up sheet for shifts for the sale. Shifts will run from 7 a.m to clean-up after 2 p.m. We will meet after MG Graduation to start pricing and set-up.

A poster set-up will be made to show customers what we are supporting with the proceeds from the plant sale. Suggestion for a donation box—would customers be likely to donate their change from the sale if they were made aware of our community programs? Will need two people in charge of the cash box-will see if Erica Jones will repeat this duty.

MASTER GARDENER GRADUATION: Members at large are in charge of setting up/decorating/clean up and need to make sure all needed supplies are available or purchased. We will encourage all attendees to bring their own utensils and plates.

Lynn suggested having a raffle basket. She will supply the basket and will ask members to bring suitable donations for the basket at the next general meeting on April 17.

PROGRAMS: Donna reported that the visit to the Pandapas Pond garden is set up for September 18. If Barbara Walker cannot guide, Debra Graff will do it. She doesn't have a definite yet for Robert McDuffie for photography session. Garden Party at the Price House? When the iris are blooming? Rosemarie Sawdon is the liaison. Possible dates are May 30 or June 6.

DIRECTORY: The quote for the directory containing the bylaws will be about \$200+. Adding another \$100 to the budget was approved to cover the increased costs.

BOOKMARK: Ini Beckman designed the original. We need to have more printed and it was discussed to design one with graphics. Will shop around for prices. Discussion was tabled until May.

NEW BUSINESS

WALMART DISCUSSION: Tabled until next meeting.

MAY BOARD MEETING: Since the graduation is on May 10, the May Board meeting will be rescheduled for later in the month.

PLANT SALE ADDENDUM: Lynn offered that Stan Stanley has made some garden totes and would we be interested in selling at the plant sale. It had earlier been decided to limit sale to plants only. But since this might be a good accompaniment to the sale, we suggested she contact Stan to see what he would like to do.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm

UPCOMING DATES:

APRIL 17 GENERAL MEETING AT CROW'S NEST GREENHOUSE, 6:30
APRIL 26 FAMILY FUN AND FITNESS, C'BURG (contact Lynn Brammer)
May 9 MG GRADUATION, GOV'T BUILDING, C'BURG, 6 PM
MAY 10 NRVMGA PLANT SALE, GOV'T BLDG, C'BURG, 10 A.M.
MAY 10 PLANT CLINIC, DEPOT DAYS, CAMBRIA
MAY 30??? NRVMGA BOARD MEETING, TBD
MAY 30/JUNE 6??? GARDEN SOCIAL, PRICE HOUSE, TBD-PENDING
JUNE 18 GARDEN VISIT, DELBERT JONES, McCOY

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Kirby, Secretary



New River Valley Master Gardeners Association



Contact Us

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Find us on the web at www.civic.bev.net/nrvmga

The New River Valley Master Gardener Association is a nonprofit organization working in conjunction with the Montgomery County Virginia Cooperative Extension Office to bring horticultural education and enjoyment to people in the New River Valley.

As Master Gardeners we are committed to learning about gardening and communicating our knowledge of gardening to others. We direct our efforts to creating and maintaining an awareness of the need for intelligent stewardship of the environment.

Share your know-how and enthusiasm for gardening in the *Grapevine*!

All NRVMA members are welcome to contribute articles and other materials for publication in the *Grapevine*. We welcome project highlights, photos, book reviews, gardening tips, event announcements, stories on garden visits, how-tos, favorite recipes, and other garden-related items for publication in the *Grapevine*. And, remember, time spent researching and writing articles counts toward your Service Activity hours.

Please send your submissions for the *Grapevine* to Cheryl Heisey at rogersmca@verizon.net. The deadline for submission for the May/June edition is June 22, 1014.

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