

GRAPEVINE



New River Valley Master Gardener Association Newsletter

May/June 2014

Happenings at the YMCA Children's Garden

by Sharon Eifried, MG Class of 2011

Even on a rainy day in May, the children at the Hensel Eckman YMCA Child Development Center in Pulaski were able to "garden" in their classrooms! All of the children decorated small flower pots with stickers of flowers, bees, butterflies and lady bugs. Into the pots went soil, compost and a small columbine plant the children were able to take home and plant.

Of course, one of the children's favorite activities that morning was watering their plants with their Mickey Mouse watering cans! The children learned they need to provide sun and water for their plants in order for them to live. They all had a great time practicing their buzzing bee sounds and flapping butterfly movements as we reviewed the role of the flowers in the garden. The children went home that day with dirt on their hands and smiles on their faces!

Thank You!

The materials and plants for the Children's Garden and related activities are supported by a grant from the New River Valley Master Gardener Association.

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Upcoming NRV MGA Events



19th NRV Garden Tour

by Lynn Brammer, NRV MGA Co-President

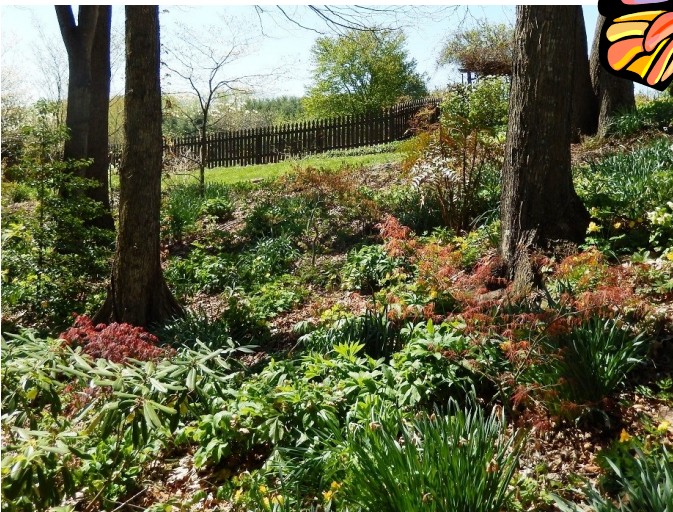
Recovery Center Garden Visit NRV Community Services Thursday, July 17th at 6:30 pm

Our July General Membership Meeting will be held at the new Recovery Center Garden location at 1044 East Main Street in Pulaski (next to the Tractor Supply). Come and learn about the value of gardening through a different perspective. The Recovery Center Garden is a one of the 2014 Community Gardening Projects receiving funding from the New River Valley Master Gardener Association. The Recovery Center is a community-based program run by NRV Community Services offering psychological rehabilitation for adults diagnosed with mental health disorders. Last year approximately 20 members of the Recovery Center were involved in various stages of the garden, growing fresh, nutritious produce for healthy meals while learning new skills and strengthening social networks.

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.



Amy and John Ogburn's beautiful woodland garden during the Spring Fling Garden Tour on April 26. Photo by Donna Fern.

The 19th New River Valley Garden Tour, not to be confused with the Town & Country Garden Tour of Pulaski County, will be held on Saturday, July 12th rain or shine. This year the tour will feature 7 gardens in the Blacksburg area: Julie Burger and Benjamin Corl at 911 Draper Road, Steve and Victoria Cochran at 2175 Maple Lane, Terry Colpitts at 2902 Stradford Lane, Lynn and Paul Knox at 2675 Woodland Hills Drive, Janet Niewald and David Crane at 1449 Luster's Gate Road, Amy and John Ogburn at 1732 Keister's Branch Road, Brenda Winkel and Jim Westwood at 3715 Millstone Ridge. The gardens will open between 9 am and 5 pm. Over 600 people attended the tour the last few years, with steady increases as our reputation grows. This year's tour promises to be the best yet!



Tickets

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 on the day of the tour with proceeds benefiting the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library. You may purchase tickets at any branch library or at any of the gardens on the day of the tour. Additional information is available online at <http://mfrlfriends.org/gardentour.html>.

MG Volunteer Opportunity

New River Valley Master Gardeners act as co-hosts with the garden owners during the tour, playing a vital role in showcasing the good gardening practices at each garden. Our role is to be available to answer questions, pointing out the working principles displayed such as how they compost, how they mulch, how they are being good stewards of water usage. This is how we earn our volunteer hours, sharing our knowledge! Please consider signing up for a two hour shift at one or more of the gardens (just spacing it so you have time to get to the second site). You will be "briefed" on the garden at which you are assigned to work before the tour. We send a questionnaire to each garden owner asking pertinent questions that will help you feel comfortable in your role. You will receive a copy of the questionnaire. I will also be happy to arrange a pre-visit to your garden if you'd like so you are well versed in its dynamics.

As a gesture of appreciation for having volunteered you will be invited to a social at the garden of Elissa Steeves on Sunday, July 13th. The garden owners will be our guests of honor for being so gracious in showcasing their gardens on the tour.

Please contact Lynn Brammer (381-4846 home, 449-6621 cell, brammer@vt.edu) if you'd like to work a two hour shift during the tour on July 12th. *Many thanks to those who already signed up!*



Bob Lockwood leads an educational activity at the Radford Public Library. Photo by Susan Lockwood.

Radford Public Library Gardening Club

New River Valley Master Gardeners Carol Eggleston and Bob and Susan Lockwood are leading a Gardening Club for children as part of the Radford Public Library's Dig Into Reading summer program.

The Gardening Club gives children the opportunity to plant and harvest an outdoor garden and learn about seeds, plants, composting and nature. The Gardening Club met for the first time on June 11 and will continue to meet every Wednesday through the end of July.

Hands-on activities and time spent prepping, planting and tending the outdoor garden teaches the children valuable gardening techniques and lets them experience the fun and wonder of growing, harvesting and enjoying their own fresh grown garden produce.

Public (eee gads!) Speaking: Lessons Learned

by Erica Jones, Christiansburg Library Project

One thing we can do as Master Gardeners to help spread the word about gardening is public speaking. People learn differently. Some learn best by listening, others by reading, and some learn best by actually grubbing in the dirt (doing it). An oral presentation can cover all three types of learning and should cover at least two – hearing the information and reading it in the class notes. My last “class” would not play in the dirt with me, but hey, I offered.

Consider presentation topic & structure

When preparing a presentation consider what type of class you'd like to teach. A “how to” class such as “How to apply mulch” or “How to make a rain barrel” is a good place to start when first learning to organize presentations as “how to” presentations can usually be broken down into distinct steps. “How to” presentations, however, tend to be very specific and may only interest a narrow group of people. A more general class session like “What are Soils?” or “Perennials for Shade” may appeal to a broader audience. Include visuals and/or demonstrations to help keep people's attention. And, remember, less is more. Better presentations usually cover one topic thoroughly, contrasted with trying to hit on lots of topics lightly. When you try to include lots of topics in one presentation it can be difficult to tie it all together. It is the tying together that helps us retain information.

Prepare a written “lesson” plan

Your lesson plan can vary from a brief outline to typing out every word that you're going to say. Unless you are really experienced you will probably need at least a few notes outlining what you are going to cover and what you want to emphasize. There is nothing wrong with holding a bunch of notes while making a presentation! (They are useful to wave around when you want to make a point, too!) Start your lesson plan with introductions. Introduce yourself and the Master Gardener program. Explain why the topic to be discussed is interesting (both to you and, hopefully, the audience). You can usually assume adults are there because they DO find the topic interesting; children are another matter so this is especially important if your audience includes children. If your group is going to meet more than once have everyone introduce themselves and briefly explain why they are there or what they hope to learn. Introductions can work well for one-session classes, too, but if time is short you can skip it. Be sure to include a summary of what you talked about at the end of your presentation (I'm not sure I've ever gotten to this stage; I'm bad about summarizing, real bad.)

Practice, practice, practice

Once you have your lesson plan; go deliver your “spiel” to the dog, to the garden weeds. Actually say it out loud, LOUDLY! Then grab the cat and do it again. This will give you practice hearing yourself and give you an idea how long your presentation will take, what parts you tend to

See PUBLIC SPEAKING, page 4

Herb-Infused LEMONADES

Lavender Lemonade

Cooking Light, June 2000

4 cups water, divided
1/4 cup chopped fresh lavender leaves
2/3 cup sugar
1 cup fresh lemon juice (about 6 lemons)

Bring 1 cup water to a boil in a medium saucepan. Combine boiling water and lavender in a medium bowl; cover and steep 30 minutes. Strain the lavender mixture through a fine sieve into a bowl; discard lavender leaves.

Combine 3 cups water and sugar in saucepan. Bring the mixture to a boil, and cook 1 minute or until sugar is dissolved. Combine lavender water, sugar syrup, and lemon juice in a pitcher. Cover and chill. Serve over ice.

Rosemary Lemonade

Health, April 2014

4 cups water, divided
6 sprigs fresh rosemary
1 cup sugar
2 cups fresh lemon juice (about 10 lemons)

Combine 1 cup water and sugar in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally to dissolve sugar. Remove from heat and add rosemary. Cover saucepan and let cool, about 2 hours.

Strain syrup into a pitcher. Stir in lemon juice and 3 cups cold water. Serve lemonade over ice.

Public Speaking: Lessons Learned

FROM page 3

skip over and how much air it takes to speak so loudly. When I first started giving presentations I hated hearing myself speak. I still do, but can ignore it now. If you have a demonstration that involves physically moving things around practice helps here, too. It can take practice to be able to “teach” and do something with your hands at the same time.

Helpful tips

PowerPoint slides which display what you are saying are deadly since we have a tendency to stand there and read the text out loud word for word. Slides with only visuals (photographs, drawings) are better. Have something extra planned to do for backup if you gallop through your presentation and end up with time to kill. Allow time for questions. If you don't know the answer, say so. Get the person's contact information, and tell them you will get back to them. Sometimes you may have to address behavior problems (even/particularly with adults). Do not let any one person dominate questions/discussions. Interrupt if you need to. Tell them you will talk to them after class. Kids are not crazy about handouts, but adults love them. Include your contact information on the handouts. Do not be afraid to repeat things. Good presenters figure out a way to rephrase the important parts as people do not always catch everything the first time. If your audience wants to go into depth on one topic, go for it. Kids will try to veer totally off topic. Don't go for it. Look at your victims (a.k.a. the audience) and be sure to glance around at different people. And, SPEAK UP so everyone can hear.

Want to hone your public speaking skills?

Consider helping me with a gardening presentation at the Christiansburg Library or one at another location. Or, if you want to start with a smaller audience, volunteer to help with a plant clinic or one of the garden tours.

NRVMGA Price House Garden Party

The famous Price Iris Garden did NOT disappoint!

Thanks to Mike Rosenzweig, pictured, for hosting our group at the Price House garden in Blacksburg on May 23. Mike is an advanced instructor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Virginia Tech and co-founder of the Seek Education, Explore, DiScover (SEEDS) community education nonprofit organization.



Summer is Fair Time!

New River Valley Fair

New River Valley Fairgrounds, Dublin, VA
July 21-26, 2014

The New River Valley Master Gardeners will host a plant clinic and gardening activities at the New River Valley Fair again this year. There will be a Rain Barrel Making Demonstration with Stan Stanley on Monday, July 21 and hands-on educational activities for children Tuesday through Saturday. A list of topics is included below. Contact Wendy Silverman at wss@vt.edu if you'd like to help.



NRVMG Activities at the New River Valley Fair

| | | |
|--------------------|--|--------------|
| Monday, July 21 | Rain Barrel Making Demonstration | TBA |
| Tuesday, July 22 | Bugs! Explore and learn about pests and beneficial insects. | 2:00-9:00 pm |
| Wednesday, July 23 | Garden in a Glove. Germinate seeds in a plastic kitchen glove. | 5:00-9:00 pm |
| Thursday, July 24 | Grass Heads! Cut their hair in 10 days! | 5:00-9:00 pm |
| Friday, July 25 | Free House Plants! Plant a cutting and take it home. | 5:00-9:00 pm |
| Saturday, July 26 | Make your own herb garden! You choose what you grow. | 2:00-9:00 pm |

There's nothing like a little friendly competition between Master Gardeners! Want to join the fun?

Consider entering some of your prize fresh produce, home canning, baked goods or cut flowers for exhibit at the fair this year. Last year New River Valley Master Gardeners Stan Stanley, Wendy Silverman and Shanna Maron battled for the most ribbons at the New River Valley Fair for their prize produce. Word has it Shanna won!

Non-perishable entries can be checked in at the Farris Building Exhibit Hall 10:00 am-2:00 pm on Saturday, July 19. Both non-perishable and perishable entries will be taken on Sunday, July 20 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Check-out the New River Valley Fair website at www.nrvfair.com for more information.

Gardening Events In & Around the New River Valley

- July**
- 12 **New River Valley Garden Tour**, 9:00 am-5:00 pm (www.mfrlfriends.org/gardentour.html)
 - 17 **NRVMGA General Meeting**, Recovery Center Garden, 1004 E. Main St., Pulaski, 6:30 pm
 - 21-26 **New River Valley Fair**, NRV Fairgrounds, Dublin (www.nrvfair.com)
 - 30 **Understanding Permaculture**, Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion, 12:00-1:00 pm (www.hort.vt.edu/hhg)
- Aug**
- 8-9 **Newport Agricultural Fair**, Newport
 - 16 **Tomato Tasting Event**, Market Square Park, Blacksburg, 9:00 –11:30 am (www.blacksburgfarmersmarket.com)
 - 21 **NRVMGA General Meeting**, Home Garden of Steve Hale, Pulaski, 6:30 pm
 - 23 **Heritage Day**, Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg, 10:00 am-3:00 pm (montgomerymuseum.org)
- Sept**
- 18 **NRVMGA General Meeting**, Pandapas Pond Pollinator Garden, Blacksburg, 6:30 pm
 - 20 **Floyd Livestock and County Fair**, Floyd

NRVMGA 2014 INTERNAL MINI GRANTS

Five internal mini grants have been awarded by the New River Valley Master Gardener Association so far this year for a total of \$500. Congratulations to the mini grant recipients! Your good work in our community is greatly appreciated. Thanks to Donna Fern (chair), Maureen Fallon, Sherry Walker, Sharon Eifried, and Steve Hale for serving on the NRVMGA Grants Committee.

Applications for mini grants are still being accepted. Contact Donna Fern for more information.

| PROJECT AND LOCATION | PROJECT DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT | COORDINATOR |
|--|---|--------|--------------------|
| Christiansburg Library Gardening Seminars | Container gardening educational session; funds needed for plants and materials | \$100 | Erica Jones |
| Gilbert Linkous Kindergarten Class Gardening Project in Blacksburg | Students studying insects, plants, and farms; funds needed to buy plants and seeds | \$100 | Phyllis Eschenmann |
| Children's Pollinator Garden at Pulaski YMCA | Twenty school age children in the Child Development Center to learn about gardening; funds for plants, soil, and tools | \$100 | Sharon Eifried |
| Garden Sign Construction at Fairview Home in Dublin | Twenty assisted living residents to help create plant identification signs for garden; funds for supplies | \$100 | Stacy Nichols |
| Raised Garden Beds at ECHO Program, Blacksburg | Day program for adults with emotional and intellectual disabilities has raised beds in need of enclosure and watering hose/hanger | \$100 | Wendy Silverman |



Wisteria has overtaken this Seattle home.
Photo by Kimberly Robinson, West Seattle Herald.

As Master Gardeners, we can help prevent the planting of invasive vegetation through education. We can encourage folks to do some research; we can share information and recommend more appropriate plants.

Select Perennial Vines with Caution

by Ellen Burch, MG Intern

Vines serve many purposes. They can provide shade, cover the ground, serve as privacy screens, brighten the landscape with brilliant color and soothe us with sweet fragrance. Garden centers and nurseries offer a variety of perennial vines for the home landscape. Each plant comes with information detailing hardiness, average size and physiological needs. Some of them should come with warnings as well but they do not. Let's take a look at a handful of vines that are perennial in Zone 6. Some of them are real monsters.

Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) is a native vine that climbs via tendrils that have sticky pads at the tip. In the wild it can climb to a height of 100 feet and quickly cover buildings, poles, walls and other vegetation. It runs along the ground as well, spreads by means of rhizomes and can choke out other vegetation. Five leaflets distinguish it from poison ivy, which has only three. The berries are poisonous to humans (but not wildlife) and the entire plant may be irritating to the skin. In fall it turns bright red. Because it grows abundantly in our woods there is little reason to plant it.

See PERENNIAL VINES, page 7

PERENNIAL VINES: Some are Real Monsters

FROM page 6

Trumpet-creeper (*Campsis radicans*) is a native of southeastern U.S. and is also known as cow itch vine or hummingbird vine. Leaves are compound with sharply-toothed leaflets; reddish-orange trumpet flowers attract hummingbirds. It grows along the ground but will climb (40 feet or more) when it can and is capable of pulling the siding off of houses. Aerial roots allow it to attach to (and damage) most any surface. This high-maintenance plant requires severe pruning to keep it from ruining trees and man-made structures. One homeowner remarked, "For the love of God, do not plant this. This plant cannot be controlled and it will destroy your neighbors' yards. It should be illegal to even sell this plant." It might be necessary to dig up shoots and remove seeds before they fall in order to stop it from spreading. The sap can cause minor skin irritation.

Wisteria is a giant vine known for fragrant purple racemes. Its dreamy, romantic look belies an ability to quickly girdle any shrub or tree upon which it grows. Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) vines twine in a clockwise direction and can grow to a length of 40 feet. Supporting structures may topple from the weight of stems as large as 10 inches in diameter. Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*) vines twine counter-clockwise and attain lengths of 30 feet. Such aggressive invaders may challenge even the best-intentioned homeowner and have no place in our landscapes. Far less invasive vines are American wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*) and Kentucky wisteria (*Wisteria macrostachya*), native to the southeastern U.S. They are shorter and have smaller, non-fragrant flowers but they lack the destructive capabilities of their Asian counterparts.

Honeysuckle may have lovely, fragrant flowers that attract butterflies and hummingbirds but it can easily strangle other plants and replace native vegetation. According to the U.S. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DRC), highly invasive honeysuckle species in Virginia include Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), Morrow's Honeysuckle (*L. morrowii*) and Standish's Honeysuckle (*L. standishii*). The first is a vine that twists around other vegetation, blocks sunlight and robs native plants of nutrients and water. It is commonly sold at garden centers. The other two species are shrubs native to Asia. They can rapidly dominate a landscape through distribution of their seed by birds. Two other species known to be moderately invasive are Amur Honeysuckle (*L. maackii*) and Tartarian Honeysuckle (*L. tatarica*). Both are bush varieties. Our woods are filled with the Amur variety. According to some sources, wood from larger plants is excellent for making spoons and other utensils. Instead of honeysuckle, plant red chokecherry, serviceberry or viburnum. They are non-aggressive natives and all three produce berries that are more nutritious for wildlife.

Climbing Hydrangea (*Hydrangea anomala petiolaris*) is another large, heavy Asian native. It climbs (60-80 feet) by means of aerial rootlets and can attach to just about anything. Known for its fragrant white flowers and shade tolerance, it is often allowed to grow on houses. Care should be taken, however, as it is difficult to detach from surfaces and may severely damage siding and shingles. It requires aggressive pruning to keep it under control.

Clematis (stress the first syllable) includes some 300 species, originating in Japan and China. The vines use leaf stems to wrap around branches and trellises that are less than 0.5" in diameter. This is a vigorous climber but it poses little threat to home or property. Vines can grow 10 to 20 feet in length but stems remain delicate and light-weight. Established plants produce dozens of large flowers in dazzling colors.

Artic Kiwi (*Actinidia kolomikta*) is a vine of Asian origin that climbs by twining. It develops variegated foliage and produces sweet, thin-skinned fruit (need a male and a female plant). Flowers are fragrant. Vines can grow to 40 feet in length but are typically no more than 15 feet. This is a compact, well-behaved vine that is suitable for a home garden.



Gift Basket Donations Always Welcome

Do you have any knickknacks, gardening books or magazines, baskets, or garden tools you no longer need? We're always looking for items for use in gift baskets. The gift baskets are raffled at NRVMGA events to raise funds for our Community Gardening Grants program. Please contact Gwen Ewing if you have anything you'd like to donate.

I heard it through the *Grapevine* ... NRV MGA MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES

New River Valley Master Gardener Association Board Meeting
Montgomery County Government Building
May 29, 2014

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CO-PRESIDENT MAUREEN FALLON AT 6:35 PM. IN ATTENDANCE: MAUREEN FALLON, LYNN BRAMMER, PETE IMHOFF, NINA TEMPLETON, WENDY SILVERMAN, EVELYN MELIA, DONNA FERN, BETH KIRBY, GWEN EWING

APRIL MINUTES WERE AMENDED TO CORRECT THE SPELLING OF ROSEMARIE SAWDON'S NAME; LYNN BRAMMER ACCEPTED A CHECK FOR \$200 FROM THE ROTARY ALONG WITH A QUART OF APPLE BUTTER WHICH WAS PUT IN THE RAFFLE BASKET AT MG GRADUATION. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

TREASURER'S REPORT: \$100 MINI GRANT TO CHRISTIANSBURG LIBRARY, \$171.17 NET INCOME FROM RAIN BARRELS. BALANCES: BB&T—3292.22, AMERIPRISE—2162.79, FOR A TOTAL OF \$5455.01.

OLD BUSINESS: WENDY REPORTED ON KIDS TECH. IT WENT WELL, ABOUT 300 CHILDREN ATTENDED. SHE NOTED THAT SHE HAS A LOT OF LEFTOVER PINE CONES AND SEED TO MAKE PINE CONE BIRD FEEDERS IF MEMBERS ARE INTERESTED IN THEM FOR PROJECTS.

A CONCERN HAD BEEN VOICED BY SOME IN MEMBERSHIP ABOUT NRV MGA ACCEPTING DONATIONS FROM COMPANIES WHO MAY NOT ABIDE BY POLLINATOR SENSITIVITY GUIDELINES IN THE RETAIL ENVIRONMENT. IT WAS NOTED THAT THIS DECISION IS NOT UP TO THE ASSOCIATION, BUT TO COOPERATIVE EXTENSION.

PLANT SALE: THE SALE CLEARED \$2549 AND THE RAFFLE BROUGHT IN \$131. MAUREEN WILL BE PUTTING TOGETHER A REPORT CONCERNING THE "GOOD, BAD AND UGLY" OF THE SALE TO USE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE TO MAKE THE NEXT SALE EVEN MORE PROFITABLE. A SUGGESTION WAS MADE TO FIND NON-COMPETING VENDORS (TOOLS, DECORATIONS, SERVICES) WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO RENT A SPACE DURING THE SALE. THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH PLANT SALE PLANNING.

BOOKMARKS: WE NO LONGER HAVE ANY FOR DISPLAY/DISTRIBUTION AT PLANT CLINICS. LYNN WILL CONTACT THE LIBRARY TO SEE WHAT THEY DID FOR THEIR BOOKMARKS. A SUGGESTION WAS FOR BUSINESS CARDS.

NEW BUSINESS: GWEN EWING MADE A PRESENTATION IN SUPPORT OF THE NRV MGA'S SUBMISSION FOR THE SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE PROGRAM AT MG COLLEGE. SHE IS WORKING WITH LYNN BRAMMER TO PUT TOGETHER A POSTER/ BRAG BOARD FOR THE SHARE THE SPARE PROJECT. THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SHARE THE SPARE WILL BE PROMOTED: FOOD PANTRY, PLANT CLINIC, YOUTH PROJECTS. SHE WILL NEED HELP WITH CONTENT AND EDITING. A POWER POINT PRESENTATION COULD ACCOMPANY THE BOARD. \$100 WAS APPROVED FOR PRINTING SUPPLIES.

WENDY HAS A SUPPLY OF PLANT MARKERS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS FOR PROJECTS. THEY ARE METAL WITH STICKY LABELS THAT SHOULD LAST A YEAR.

MG COLLEGE : HAS A FULL LINE UP OF VOLUNTEERS. LYNN WILL BE PUTTING TOGETHER A BASKET FOR THE SILENT AUCTION.

GRANTS COMMITTEE: DONNA REPORTED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR MINI-GRANTS APPROVED (SEE ATTACHED)

MEMBERS AT LARGE: THERE WAS CONCERN THAT THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH MEMBERS AT LARGE, BUT THE ISSUE HAS BEEN RESOLVED

GARDEN TOUR: JULY 12 STILL LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO SIGN UP TO HELP. LYNN WILL BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT TIMES NEEDED.

MINUTES May 29, 2014 (CONTINUED)

RECORDS: EVELYN ASKED HOW LONG THE MG RECORDS NEED TO BE MAINTAINED. SINCE THE APPLICATIONS AND RECORDS ARE NOW MOSTLY COMPUTERIZED, IT WAS DETERMINED TO KEEP 5 YEARS OF RECORDS. THE RECORDS WILL BE SHREDDED. THIS CAN BE USED AS VOLUNTEER HOURS.

PROJECT MARKERS: LYNN SUGGESTED THAT THERE BE SOME SORT OF SIGN/MARKER AT EACH MG GRANT PROJECT INDICATING THAT NRV MGA HELPED SUPPORT THE PROJECT THROUGH THE GRANTS MADE AVAILABLE TO MG'S.

DETENTION HOME PROJECT: WENDY REPORTED THAT THE PROMISED AUBURN MIDDLE SCHOOL GREENHOUSE WAS MISTAKENLY TORN DOWN.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:50 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BETH KIRBY, SECRETARY

MINUTES

New River Valley Master Gardener Association General Meeting
Home of Delbert and Johanna Jones
June 18, 2014

NRVMGA general meeting was held at the home of Delbert and Johanna Jones on Wednesday, June 18 at 6:30 pm. Approximately 15 people attended to have a tour of Delbert's lovely gardens and home.

General announcements:

Pulaski Garden Tour: Mickey Balconi still needs two more people for the afternoon sessions 1-4 pm. The tour is June 28.

Mini Grants: There have been four mini-grants approved and one more application has been submitted.

NRV Garden Tour: Lynn said that there are still shifts available on July 12. All Volunteers are invited to the Sunday soiree at Elissa Steeves' house on July 13.

MG College: Wendy said she is sending out emails to drivers on the 19th. The Search for Excellence presentation is under construction.

Next meeting:

NRV Community Service Mental Health Program garden in Pulaski on Thursday, July 17. More info will follow.

Presentation:

Delbert had several interesting ways to make gifts of saved seeds and handed out a template to use as a seed packet. He demonstrated preparation of moss gardens and took the membership on a tour of his grounds and gardens.

Thank you Delbert and Johanna!

Beth Kirby, Secretary



New River Valley Master Gardeners Association



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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 NRV MGA 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. The deadline for submission for the July/August edition is August 22, 1014.

Webmaster and List serve Administrator

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