

NORTHERN NECK MASTER GARDENERS  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2021  
Via Zoom

**Attendees:** Margie Beane, Mary Beane, Bethany Bosold, Deborah Brooks, Deborah Burgess, Gail Cooper, Carmela Crawford, Leslie Damon, Jeff Evans, Page Evans, Margaret Gibson, Carolyn Gorman, Aleta Hoffman, Henry Lane Hull, Helen Johnson, Barbara Kauneckas, Diane Kean, Michelle Kramer, Susan Lindsey, Susan Losapio, Janice Mahoney, Barbara Mait, Carol Martin, Tami McCauley, Steve Mosier, Edward Munns, Anne Olsen, Lynn Osborne, JoAnn Perkins, Henry Riely, Bonita Russell, Kim Schmidt, Lee Scripture, Diane Smith, Sandra L. Sperry, Mary A. Turville, Fran Westbrook

**VCE Staff:** William Bell, Trent Jones

The minutes of February 17, 2021 were approved.

The Treasurer reported \$42,274.51 in checking, \$2,000 in GNN registrations, 2 checks received for shoreline evaluation, and 4 members remained to pay dues. The report was approved and is posted on the website.

GNN Report – Lynn Osborne announced that “We are ready to go!” She suggested that participants login at 8:45 am. There will be a slide show with important info re: how Zoom will be used for the seminar. Cindy & Lynn will be collating questions from the audience during each session and selecting the most relevant to be addressed after the speaker finishes his/her presentation. They have completed Zoom practice with all three speakers. There are 2 speakers prior to the lunch break. During the lunch break there will be a power point presentations highlighting the programs and activities NNMG conducts throughout the year. Lynn thanked all those who provided photos and text for the PPT. PDF versions of two speakers’ presentations will be sent to participants at the end of the seminar along with a brief survey. Cindy Dullea will be the Master of Ceremonies. Lynn would like to thank Trent and Bill who have provided tremendous help during the process of developing the virtual GNN. They will be in attendance all day Saturday; Trent will be running Zoom and Bill will be on the help line. 109 paid participants are registered.

Henry Riely reported that the Constant Contact email is scheduled to go out at noon today and again at 5 am on Friday. “I uploaded 177 email contacts to Constant Contact. About 3 emails are shared, so we may have about 180 attendees.”

VCE Update – No updates at this time.

#### Committee Updates

Children’s Education program will be co-chaired by Carmela Crawford and Bethany Bosold. They will be contacting the 4-H’ers, Tara & Wendy, and begin working together to assist their work in the schools.

Business: Bylaw Revision motion to accept was made by Diane Kean and seconded by Lynn Osborne seconded. The revised bylaws were approved.

All Committee Reports are posted on the website.

The meeting was adjourned, the floor given to the CE Program host, Tami McCauley.

Better Impact, the new volunteer management system was reviewed by Bill. Important functionality includes navigating to the login page on MyImpactPage.com, resetting and recovery of the Password and user name.

Home tabs important to users are: Hours, My profile.

On the My Profile page, enter/correct and save your information. Under Qualifications are the questions for Re-enrollment. Answer the 4 questions, click on the “I” to read the documents, answer the question, and enter expiry date. Save when finished.

Bill then reviewed how to enter hours.

Barb is available to answer any questions you may have. Please don't hesitate to call her.

Help Desk – Henry Riely presented a power point for volunteers who want to work on the Help Desk.

The pdf will be posted on the website, additional training will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 11 am via zoom after the Executive Committee Meeting.

To volunteer, sign up in the EMG page, Help Desk.

Plant Sale – Michelle Kramer reported that 30-40 varieties will be on sale at Dug In Farms. There will be numerous opportunities for volunteering. Plant material will be coming from Colesville Nursery & Sandy's Plants.

NNNPS – announcement by Ted Munns, meeting 3/18 at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Beane

Recording Secretary

## Balance Sheet

As of February 28, 2021

## ASSETS

## Current Assets

## Checking/Savings

Genl Operating Checking Acct	42,154.51
Petty Cash - Farmers Markets	
Heathsville Farmers Mkt	30.00
Irvington Farmers Mkt	30.00
Montross Farmers Mkt	30.00
Tappahannock Farmers Mkt	30.00

TOTAL ASSETS		<u>42,274.51</u>
--------------	--	------------------

## LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY

## Equity

Opening Balance Equity	40,099.39
Unrestricted Net Assets	-508.10
Net Income	<u>2,683.22</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		<u>42,274.51</u>
----------------------------	--	------------------

## INCOME

Interest Earned	11.13
Membership Dues	750.00
Program Income	
GNN	2,000.00
Shoreline Evaluation Program	60.00
Donations	<u>25.00</u>

Total Income	2,846.13
--------------	----------

## EXPENSE

Administration	
Website	<u>-74.35</u>
Total Expense	<u>-74.35</u>

NET INCOME		<u>2,920.48</u>
------------	--	-----------------

## **Communications/Publicity Monthly Report for February 2021**

NNMG Newsletter: Michelle Kramer submitted the winning name for the new NNMG newsletter which will henceforth be known as the NNMG Garden Post. Michelle winds a \$25 prize and bragging rights...

Janice Mahoney will be doing the March interview with WRAR-Radio 105.5 FM on March 19th at 8:04 sharp...she will be talking about creating a wildlife habitat in your own backyard. Don't forget to tune in!

Michelle Kramer and Helen Johnson have been working on a series of 3 news articles promoting the plant sale at Dug In Farms. The articles will begin appearing in the papers during the month of April leading up to the sale which begins April 30th and continuing through the weekend.

Henry Riely has written an article promoting the reopening of the Help Desk...it will appear in the papers this month.

Helen Johnson has written an article on the ways landscapes evolve over time.

## Northern Neck Master Gardeners Remote Help Desk Report

Please consider volunteering at NNMG's Remote Help Desk this year! Volunteers log into and monitor the Help Desk's Gmail account ([helpdesknnmg@gmail.com](mailto:helpdesknnmg@gmail.com)) on Tuesday<sup>1</sup> and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Their activities include the following:

- a) Review any new emails received since the previous session,
- b) Research the question(s) or problem(s) submitted in the email,
- c) Send a response email to the contact, and
- d) Enter the contact's name, email address and other information in the spreadsheet – *2021 Northern Neck Remote Helpdesk Requests* – contained in the Gmail's Google Drive app.

The volunteer's email acts as the record of his or her actions in answering the contact's request. We are planning to discontinue the use of the "Request for Information" contact sheets used in the past.

Volunteers sign up for the Remote Help Desk through the Help Desk link on the [EMG page](#) of the NNMG website.

### **A Simplified and Convenient Volunteer Opportunity**

Volunteering will be simpler and less "stressful" than in previous years thanks to changes described below. You can meet your 20-hour volunteer requirement from the comfort of your home using your own computer, while also helping Northern Neck residents with their gardening questions and problems.

In past years EMGs (including me!) have been wary of volunteering at the Help Desk of a VCE office, particularly if a resident were to walk in with a difficult problem that couldn't be handled "on the spot." However, there will be no walk-in availability for the Remote Help Desk at any VCE office in the Northern Neck this year. In addition, Virginia Tech's Plant Disease Clinic will not accept any plant samples, although it will accept photographs of the plant submitted through the Remote Help Desk. The closest a Help Desk volunteer will get to a contact is by telephone.

### **Reporting Requirements Simplified Under Better Impact**

Good news for this year's Help Desk volunteers, as they need report only the number of their "indirect" contacts under the Hours tab of [Better Impact](#). Reporting a contact's gender, age range and ethnicity are no longer required. Hence all contacts to be reported under Better Impact will be "indirect."

### **Virtual Training Session at the March 17 Regular Meeting**

Please join us at the March 17 meeting for a short training session on the Remote Help Desk. We will review how to access the Gmail account, its Google Drive app, Help Desk Instructions and other information. Additional training will be offered in the near future.

---

<sup>1</sup> Tuesday morning volunteer opportunities will start on April 6, 2021.

Shoreline Evaluation Program (SEP)  
Committee Report  
March 2021  
(For Activities in February 2021)

SEP members met via Zoom February 1 for the regular monthly meeting. Teams are working on revisions to the Homeowner's Guide and completing a Task Force Report on doing follow-ups with prior years' clients to evaluate the effectiveness of the SEP program. Eight individuals have requested evaluations for 2021. The SEP Education team reported that it met to begin planning education activities for when Covid restrictions are eased.

February 24, SEP members met via Zoom with Karen Duhring, Coastal Scientist with VIMS Center for Coastal Resources Management, for a training session about living shorelines. She discussed living shoreline fundamentals and the challenges of selecting this approach for shoreline management. She also led SEP members in a group case study to determine whether sites are suitable for living shoreline installations and concluded with a wrap-up chat session.

To prepare SEP members for doing evaluations this year, Ian Cheyne has been conducting CCRM (Coastal Center for Resources Management) mapping sessions via Zoom to re-familiarize SEP members with online tools used to evaluate client properties prior to a site visit. He has conducted 3 sessions in January and February.

For March, SEP will continue working to complete the revised Homeowner's Guide and will conduct a training session for all members prior to the opening of evaluation season April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Submitted by Mary Turville

## TEACHING GARDENS REPORT: March 12, 2021

Submitted by Janice Mahoney

### **HEATHSVILLE EXTENSION OFFICE – SUE KOSINSKI**

**ACTIVITY** –On Wed., Feb 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 11 am, these EMG assisted Sue K: Janice M, Sue L, Michelle K, Anne O, Tami M, Carolyn G

The EMGs did a spring cleanup on the garden. Trees were pruned, hollies were shaped, perennials were cut back, weeds were dug out, and beds were edged. One yard of mulch was installed.

### **GW BIRTHPLACE KITCHEN GARDEN: BETSY HARDY & WAYNE CONDREY**

The Colonial Kitchen Garden at George Washington Birthplace National Monument was still sleeping under its warm coat of fall mulch when we checked it six weeks ago. But weeds are surely going to explode in March. Our hope is to resume some work in the second half of March, but certainly by the start of April. At the moment, we are working to coordinate work dates with EMG volunteers who work at Stratford Hall. As Diane Smith has observed, these two Westmoreland County historic sites often draw upon the same EMG folks for garden maintenance. It makes sense to simplify and regularize the designation of our work dates.

### **REEDVILLE SHORELINE GARDEN: – CAROLYN GORMAN & DEBORAH MARL**

We are going to kick off the season in conjunction with SPRING CLEAN UP at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum on Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>. After that initial Saturday work day, we will continue to work on Thursdays as in the past. We have bare root shrub roses on order, so these will be planted when they arrive.

### **STRATFORD HALL GARDEN: - DIANE SMITH**

After the past year's hiatus, we are preparing to return to Stratford. I am working with Betsy to try to find times that will not conflict with the GW herb garden, the farm museum garden, and various other meetings. I don't think I will be successful. We hope to start up again in April after most of our volunteers have had their vaccinations.

**HISTORIC CHRIST CHURCH: Sally Beard**

We will remove about 28 boxwoods in the month of March. The plan is to meet on Tuesdays and dig about 7 per week for the next 4 weeks.

We will lop off the tops of the bushes so only the root balls are left. We will have the entire hedge removed by end of March.

We are also calculating the number of new bushes we will need and then we will plant them in the month of April

The end result is converting a full height hedge to a more low lying border with low profile boxwoods.

**FARM MUSEUM VEGETABLE GARDEN – SUSAN LOSAPIO & BONNIE SCHASCHEK**

**ACTIVITY:** We had our kick-off meeting via Zoom thanks to Ian Cheyne.

To date, the eight 4 x 24ft beds and the sweet potato bed have been covered with tarps. Because the ground is too wet, we did not cut back the cover crop before we put the tarps on. Covering the beds with the tarps will start the breakdown of the cover crop. We hope to be able to plant utilizing a no-till routine this year, which should allow us to have spring plantings.

Jim is going to check on the necessary replacement parts for irrigation, Ian is going to add additional support for the blackberries, and we added spring bulbs to Jinny's Garden.

Bonnie has started seeds for peppers, Ian has started cherry tomato seeds, and Lynn and Barbara K. will start other tomato plants.

Bonnie will add compost to the big raised bed to improve the soil for drainage and to add supplements