

**West Virginia Master Gardeners State Board Meeting  
July 11, 2009**

Jean Dawson graciously hosted the quarterly board meeting at her home in Mannington, WV. President Karen Toothman called the meeting to order at 10:55 AM.

**The minutes from the May 1, 2009, quarterly board meeting were distributed.** There were no corrections or additions. Delores Barber moved to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Betty Harler. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

**Jan Hargate presented the treasurer's report of financial transactions from May 1 through July 8, 2009.** Significant transactions included: Green Thumbs Healthy Joints grant money which went into the account and was then distributed to recipients of the grants; \$2,000 for the scholarship fund was deposited in the WVU Foundation cash account; 2011 International Conference seed money. A copy of the treasurer's report is attached to these minutes. Georgian Steinhardt made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Darwin Burge seconded the motion. The motion to approve the treasurer's report passed.

**John Jett presented the State Master Gardener Coordinator's report:**

- A new agricultural engineer has been hired. John added that extension staff is not shrinking and efforts are being made to fill open positions.
- The current Wood County agent is leaving to take a position with the State Fair.
- An offer may have been made to an applicant for the Cabell County extension agent position.
- Extension has formed an ad hoc committee, Extension Advocacy Master Gardener Committee. Among the functions of the committee are:
  - Efficient reporting of accomplishments by Extension
  - Publicizing various awards and grants as well as the recipients
- John Jett is serving on the Consumer Horticulture National Committee. The committee is working with Scott's to become a sponsor (\$150,000 over a three-year period) of a landscape and lawn site on E-Extension.
- The USDA recently had an impressive news release regarding the availability of Master Gardeners as a source of information on growing healthy, safe food. The article stated that Master Gardeners are not just a garden club but volunteers who bring scientifically based information to the community. John will put a link to the press release on the web site.
- John reminded us that county events are on list serve. Send the information to John. He suggested that an individual from each group be responsible for pictures (digital only, please) of various promotions and activities.
- Green Thumbs mini grants will be awarded for larger sums in the future because it was necessary to go outside Master Gardener's to award grants this year. New applications will be available after the first of the year.
- The \$2,000 Master Gardener horticultural scholarship will be awarded to one student.
- Promotion of the 2011 International will be done at some of the larger and regional conferences being held east of the Mississippi.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Executive Committee Report presented by Karen Toothman**

Karen announced that Jerry Crabtree of Preston County Master Gardeners replaced Lee Reger as the new member-at-large.

### **2009 Conference Committee Report presented by H.R. Scott**

H.R. presented a detailed income and expense report to the board. Total income for the conference was \$23,735.50; expenses were \$14,721.34 with net income at \$9,014.16. A copy of the detailed report is attached to these minutes.

### **2009 Auction Committee Report presented by Donna Straley**

Donna reported that net proceeds from the auction were \$4,400 and thanked everyone for their generous contributions.

### **2010 Conference Report presented by Kim Van Rijn for Diana Higginbotham**

The keynote speaker, Mel Bartholemew of Eden, Utah has been confirmed. Twelve of fourteen workshop presenters have been lined up and Diana expects to have final information at the October board meeting.

### **Publicity Committee Report presented by Donna Straley**

Donna relayed that the Publicity Committee has completed the second quarter newsletter and it will be posted on the web site this week. She encouraged members to take advantage of the newsletter as both a learning and communication tool.

### **Finance Committee Report presented by Jan Hargate**

Jan reported that \$2,000 from the auctions has been forwarded to the WVU Foundation cash account. She recommended that the remaining \$2,400 be used to purchase a certificate of deposit.

**Jan Hargate moved that \$2,400 of the proceeds from the 2009 Conference auctions be used to purchase a CD; H.R. Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Jan stated that developing additional revenue streams are a goal of the committee. She added that we may want our letter to sponsors and donors to say that the money will be used for scholarships and/or programs to advance education. Historically, the letters have said that the money will be used for scholarships.

Jan relayed that the balance in the WVU Foundation Account is \$37,169.48.

### **Volunteer Activities Committee Report presented by Pat Izzo**

Pat reported that the survey has been simplified and will go out again on List Serve. He also relayed that Willa Izzo still needs volunteers for the state fair. Greenbriar Master Gardeners are willing to provide lodging for those who volunteer.

### **Awards Committee Report presented by**

The new Member-at-large is Jerry Crabtree of Preston County.

### **Membership Retention Committee Report presented by Midge Hollon**

Midge relayed that several counties have not responded to the survey. She has no information from Braxton/Clay, Hancock/Brooke, Hardy, Harrison, Kanawha, Lewis, Marshall, Mercer or Ritchie

counties. Once the information is received, information related to retaining membership will be published by Midge's committee. Midge asks that non-responsive counties fill out the forms as soon as possible.

### **Continuing Education Committee Report presented by Jean Dawson**

Jean reported that consideration is being given to lifetime membership status and a higher level of training for Master Gardeners who would like to teach. The committee suggests developing criteria for Master Gardener II wherein those who want to qualify would take at least ten hours of special training plus a requirement to teach classes after the first year. The committee expects to have a definite plan for both membership levels in October.

### **2011 International Conference Committee Report presented by Delores Barber**

Delores provided an update on the various committees and responsible counties: Speakers Committee/Eastern Panhandle, Day Tours and Food/Kanawha, Pre-Conference Tours/Wood, Hospitality/Hancock-Brooke, Garden Shop/Cabell-Putnam, Trade Show/New River, Entertainment/Greenbrier. She still needs help with the Grants Committee.

The "biggest" conference news is that Scott's Lawn Products has committed to a \$25,000 cash sponsorship. The Scott's logo will, in turn, be on the web site. The West Virginia county agents have committed to a \$2,500 donation which will be given in three installments. WVU Ag and Natural Resources will give a \$1,600 "in-kind" donation for name badges. Monongalia County donated \$2,500 and Delores asked other counties to consider donating to the conference, perhaps by holding a fundraiser.

The committee continues to look for additional sponsors (please contact Delores if you have suggestions or contacts). Fiskars has been contacted, Proven Winners will give "in-kind" (speakers, books, etc.), Fine Gardening committed to a contribution, Julie has applied for tax credits. Julie and Delores are going to the Garden Writers Conference in Raleigh, NC in September in the hopes of obtaining additional sponsors. Be sure to click the conference logo box on the web site to find out what sponsors receive for their contributions.

### **New Business**

- A host county is still needed for the 2012 state conference.
- John Jett said that a new web master has been interviewed and someone may be filling that position soon, hopefully, in time to assist with the International Conference. Jennifer Williams will supervise this individual.

The next board meeting will be held at Jackson's Mill on October 10, 2009 at 10:30 AM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Respectively submitted by,

*Donna Straley*  
Secretary

*Karen Toothman*  
President