

**The Virginia Beach Garden Club**  
**General Membership Meeting**

**April 15, 2015**  
**The Princess Anne Country Club**

President Lynda Strickler called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Jo Ann Peterson gave the collect.

**Officer Reports:** **Joan Lyons, Treasurer** - The March financial report was read: General Funds stood at \$15,667.75; Ways and Means totaled \$47,907.36; Hort. Speaker and Small Flower Show Funds continued to stand at \$1,500 each for a total balance of \$66,575.11. Joan asked that all expense requests be made by April 30. The Treasurer reviewed and distributed the written budget for fiscal year 2015-16. President Strickler moved that the budget be approved, and it was so. **Latane Brown, Corresponding Secretary** reminded the members that written explanations were expected if three meetings were missed. **Molly Ill, Vice-President** was pleased to announce that the VBCG website was now accepting FFF pre-sales and proceeded to walk members through the process on an overhead screen.

**Committee Reports:** **Allison McDuffie and Nancy Freeman, FFF** – The chairs noted that paper order forms, as well as online ordering of FFF pre-sales were acceptable and that the deadline for all pre-sales was June 1. Betty Miles, for **Jude Kelly, Admissions**, reviewed the by-laws for admission to the VBGC and followed with the introduction of two candidates for admission: Pam Pruden and Riley Peterson Warlick. Both candidates were voted in by the membership. **Demaris Yearick, Community Projects** - the following projects and expenditures for the upcoming year were presented to the membership for their consideration and vote: Buff's Garden \$1,000; Adam Keeling Meadow, City of Virginia Beach \$1,000; Brock Center, Chesapeake Bay Foundation \$1,375; Oyster Reef, Lynnhaven River Now \$2,500; Hope House Garden \$500; and Tidewater Community College greenhouse \$500. This would leave \$13,125 for future projects. President Strickler moved that these projects be approved and the motion was passed. The President also commended Demaris for her recognition as "Volunteer of the Month", *Northender Magazine*. **Betsy Cromwell, Conservation** – Betsy brought the seriousness of several national conservation issues to the Club's attention: the diminished ice pack in the Arctic; the decline in the wildlife population and the danger and expense of invasive species which threaten wildlife. She encouraged members to become advocates for the environment. **Tina Minter, Conservation** - Having attended the GCA NAL meeting in Washington, D.C., Tina also communicated the importance of these national issues as acknowledged by the GCA and added that funding of our National Parks was, sadly, uncertain. **Lucy Lee, Flower Shows** – Lucy announced that the upcoming GCV Lily Show would be held in Middleburg, VA by the Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club. She also informed the membership that the VBGC received a red ribbon in the April 1 GCV Daffodil Show held in Winchester. **Emily Mills, HGW** – Just a week away, Emily reported that all was in order for the tour. She stressed the importance of using the PACC as a launching point for transportation, ticket sales and shopping with the excellent vendors who would be on site that day. She also encouraged the need for social media "chatter" to promote Historic Garden Week. **Donna Haycox, Horticulture** – All of the members who brought in horticulture were recognized. Donna then reminded the Club to bring perennials to the May meeting plant exchange. Demaris Yearick and Donna Eure were thanked for offering the April 1 seed workshop, and it was hoped that there would be a good turnout for the June 3 propagation workshop. The Club was reminded that the GCV Horticulture Field Day would be in Winchester May 27-28.

**New Business:** President Strickler recognized Meg French's work in completing phase II of the State Park native plant garden, noting that it was featured in the GCV Bulletin. As Zone VII hostesses, Kay Shiflett encouraged members to participate in the Horticultural showings at the GCA Zone VII meeting. Martha Goodman and Mary Denny unveiled the "GOING COASTAL" logo and graphics for the Zone VII Meeting, designed by Terry Etner. The agenda for the meeting was also announced:

Monday – Judges arrive and are hosted for dinner

Tuesday – Participants arrive and join for roundtable discussions and dinner in the homes of members.

Wednesday – A field trip to the Brock Center is planned. The Award dinner will be at The Princess Anne Country Club. Martha and Mary were pleased to announce that Anne Swanson, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission would speak at The Brock Center. Also speaking at the meeting will be Rachel Guy, a GCA scholarship recipient. A third speaker will be an accomplished landscape architect. Audrey Parrott will chair the Zone VII Flower Show, with Cathy Cottrell, co-chair. The committee chairs also announced that the Flower Show would be named "Celebrating our Waterways" and would be open to the public on Wednesday, September 30. It was added that there would be several vendors to create a "By the Sea Boutique" for a fun shopping experience. President Strickler, Martha and Mary expressed their gratitude for the help of the Sheraton Hotel in planning this exciting event. A delightful slide show of the year's activities was presented by Connie Owen. The Meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

Lou Flowers, Recording Secretary