

# Penn State **Extension** Master Gardener Newsletter

Crawford County | December 2013

[extension.psu.edu](http://extension.psu.edu)  
<http://extension.psu.edu/crawford>

Penn State Cooperative Extension in Crawford County, 13400 Dunham Road, Suite A, Meadville, PA 16335

## President's Viewpoint—Valerie Walton

We've come to the end of another year. Remember when you were little the school year would last forever, summer flew by too quickly, and Christmas took forever to arrive. As we get older, the years seem to pick up speed as they go by. Hopefully we can keep up. We need to be thinking of what we want to accomplish next year, so we can get a plan put forward. The seed catalogs have already started to arrive. As we close out his year, I hope everyone enjoys valuable time with family and friends to remember the true meaning of this holiday season.

## Historian

Our Historian, Bertha Mesarch, has announced that she is giving up this position as of February 1st. Anyone interested in taking over this important job should let her know. She will have everything up to date for whoever takes over.



## Master Gardener Meeting

Date: Thursday  
December 12, 2013  
Time: 6:30 p.m.  
Location: New Beginnings Church of God  
Leslie Road, Meadville  
Program: Christmas Party

- \* A dish to share
- \* Table service
- \* Canned goods for the church food pantry



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Viewpoint	1
Historian	1
Master Gardener Meeting Information	1
Coordinator's Notes	2
Master Gardener Meeting Minutes	3—4

PENNSSTATE



Cooperative Extension  
College of Agricultural Sciences

## Coordinator's Notes—Linda Ruggiero



It is hard to believe that December and Christmas are upon us once again. I have already had my fair share of the snow and wish spring was just around the corner.

I would like to thank all Master Gardeners for the outstanding work that they have done throughout the year. If we did not have so many special people and groups in our organization, we would not get as much done as we do.

The tree at the Market House is being set up on Wednesday, Dec. 4, and the theme is “Home for the Holidays. Members of the new class have taken on this project and have put many hours into making decorations and researching the theme. Please remember to vote for the tree on Dec 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The annual Christmas party is being held Thursday, December 12, at 6:30 at the New Beginnings Church of God on Leslie Road. Certificates of members’ volunteer hours will be given out at this meeting. Please bring a dish to pass and your table service.

The new VMS is fast approaching going online. There will be an Adobe Connect instructional viewing on Dec 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. If anyone is interesting in attending, please let me know so I can find out if we can have it at the Extension Office. Please let me know ASAP so it can be set up.

Each of you has received a copy of the new policy statement. There have been changes made that need to be followed. Please read over the statement and then return just the signatory page. This will also be included in the new recording system and signed online also.

Elections were held at the last meeting. Ron Menanno will co-chair with Valerie as President for this year. Pat Palmiero will co-chair with Joyce Parker for Secretary. Autumn Beers is staying on as Vice President.

Mercer County is holding a workshop on January 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-4:00. You can register on c-vent by going to the Mercer County Home page. Cost for Master Gardeners is \$35.00 and non-MGs is \$40.00 due by Jan 8<sup>th</sup>.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR THE STATE CONFERENCE IN STATE COLLEGE ON JUNE 20-21. WE HAVE A LOT OF NEW EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS BEING DESIGNED FOR THIS CONFERENCE AND IT SHOULD BE VERY INFORMATIONAL. PLEASE CONSIDER COMING FOR THE 2-DAY SESSION AND MEETING, MANY MASTER GARDENERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE. MORE INFO AS IT UNFOLDS.

An OUTREACH program of the  
College of Agricultural Sciences

**Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research and extension programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.**

Visit Penn State Extension on the web: [extension.psu.edu](http://extension.psu.edu).

Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by Penn State Cooperative Extension is implied.

Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact [Name and phone number] in advance of your participation or visit.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identify, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director. The Pennsylvania State university, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901: Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY.

## Master Gardener Meeting Minutes November 21, 2013

Valerie called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

There was no speaker for this meeting.

**Minutes:** One correction; The aquaponics tour at Allegheny College would be at Carr Hall, not Eaton Hall. Ron motioned to accept with the correction and Trisha 2nd. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Presented by Pat Palmerio. The balance as of Oct 31, 2013 is \$6,729.18. Fran motioned to accept as presented. Scott 2nd. Motion carried.

### New Business:

**State Coordinators Conference:** Linda and Valerie attended the State Coordinators' Conference and reported on many changes being made:

- *VMS*—We cannot switch over from e-data to the Volunteer Management System until all Counties in PA have submitted their numbers to the state. Linda will notify us when that occurs. In the meantime continue to track your hours on paper.
- *Update Coordinator' Manual*—There is a new manual in the office. If you would like to know what the Coordinator responsibilities are, please read it.
- *Mandated Training*—If you will be working with children you are required to take this training. The training is free and online. At the end of the training you will receive a certificate. Linda needs a copy of the certificate. This is not the same as obtaining your background checks. Penn State is not paying for background checks this year. You will be responsible for getting them. If you are interested in training, Contact Linda.
- *Master Gardener Advanced Certification Program*—This is a “train the trainer model”. Participants will travel to various counties throughout Northwest PA for training. The program will last 5 months and started 11/19.
- *State Newsletter*—The first state newsletter was printed on 10/23/13. It will be published monthly. If you would like to submit an article do so at <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening> or at the Master Gardener website at <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/master-gardener>.
- *JR Master Gardener Program*—Has not been implemented yet.
- *Pest Ed*—Limited numbers. We get paid for every presentation we do. Aldi has been doing.
- *Training Manual*—Linda is working on a committee to rework the class training manual. It is not done yet.

**Conneaut Lake Elementary School Garden Project:** This is a joint project with the Conneaut Lake School District, the Conneaut Lake Garden Club and the Master Gardeners. Jean Groce is chairing the project committee and the next meeting is 2/13/14. The students and teachers have planted bulbs. Linda contacted Renee's Seeds about donating seeds. They have agreed provided there are photos and records kept about how much produce is grown. If you would like to help, call Jean.

**Courthouse Landscaping Project:** Gloria & Linda were asked by Jack Lynch to provide advice about landscaping around the Courthouse and a Courthouse community garden.

### Old Business:

**Christmas Dinner:** Will be at the New Beginnings Church of God on 12/12/13 at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share, your own table service and non-perishable food items for the church food pantry. RSVP to Linda by 12/9/13.

**Market House Tree Decorations:** The theme for this year is “Home for the Holidays” Jenny Steiger and Laurie Peyronel are working hard on the decorations. Watch your email for announcements about the day and time for decoration

### **Announcements:**

Crawford County Extension Board. Ron Mennano has agreed to serve on the board.

### **Coordinator's Report:**

See previous page—State Coordinators' Conference

Save the date for the State Conference. June 20-21, 2014 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College.

Remember-Do Not use e-data. Your hours will not count.

There will be a "Search for Excellence" award at the State Conference. The award is for projects that have made a difference in your community. You must write an impact paper and have a poster about your project. Linda is considering entering the prison project for the 2014 Conference.

Linda passed out the Penn State Master Gardener Policy Statement. She pointed out changes that have been made to the statement this year.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Composting:** No

**Children's Education:** No

**Cambridge Corrections:** Will be starting a new class in January 2014.

**DeArment Park:** No

**Experimental Gardening:** No

**Fair:** No.

**Hospice House:** For Make a Difference day on 10/19. Allegheny College students worked hard.

**Hot Line:** No

**Library/Memorial Garden:** Patti Lesh donated two new books to the library prior to moving.

**Pollinator:** Last report has been submitted and the garden cleaned up.

**Scholarship:** No

**Plant Sale:** No

**Program Committee:** Remember the Christmas party is December 12th.

**Municipal Services Committee:** This is a new committee Scott will chair. Current projects include the Rain Garden near Taco Bell. Scott reported Ian would like to test fire pits and burn barrels in the area for heavy metals. He had permission slips available to those who would let Ian test their ashes.

Scott presented information on the Toastmasters' Group. This a group that meets two times a month on Thursday mornings and assists people to become more comfortable speaking in front of a group. For more information see Scott.

### **Additional Discussion items:**

Next month is election time. We need people to run for office. Autumn Beers has agreed to remain as Vice-President. Valerie asked for volunteers for President, Secretary and Treasurer. No one stepped up. After discussion it was decided Ron and Valerie will run as Co-Presidents, Joyce and Pat will run as Co-Secretary. The Treasurer's position is up in the air as Janice was unavailable to attend this meeting.

We received a Thank You card from the Meadville Garden Club.

Jason brought in the digital camera for the office. Thank You Jason.

The Crawford County Master Gardeners now have a Facebook page. Find us and become friends.

Jean motioned to adjourn at 7:50 Ron 2nd.

Submitted by Joyce Parker

