

TAPROOT

The Newsletter of the Council of Garden Clubs
Of Virginia Beach, Inc.

www.vbgardenclubs.org

Volume 36 Number 3

January/February 2006

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Board Meeting

January 4, 2006, 10:00AM Francis Land House

General Meeting

Wednesday, Jan 11, 2006 Virginia Beach Central Library
Registration – 9:30AM 4100 Virginia Beach Boulevard
Meeting – 10:00AM Virginia Beach, VA 23452

2005-2007 Officers

President	Anne Herrick
First Vice President	Suzie Duckworth
Second Vice President	Peggy Ward
Recording Secretary	Carol Simons
Corresponding Secretary	Joan Curtin
Treasurer	Betty Villers

Council Website

Webmaster Virginia S. Anderson, 481-4688
www.VBGardenClubs.org webmaster@vbgardenclubs.org

President's Message

Anne Herrick, anneher@cox.net, 340-3525

Welcome to 2006. I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Holiday.

A great big **THANK YOU** to all who helped to decorate Francis Land House for the Holidays, and another great big **THANK YOU** to all who participated in the Wreath-Making Workshop for the Municipal Center Buildings.

Thanks to **Peggy Ward** we have some very exciting programs in store in the coming months.

February is our **Fund Raiser**. I am looking forward to "how many hats we wear". So please come out, one and all, to help make our Fund Raiser a "Huge Success".

Anne

January Program

Peggy Ward, peggyward@macs.net, 428-8949

The Council's January program is a presentation by **Mac Rawls** and **Barbara Henley**, the City of Virginia Beach representatives for the festivities surrounding the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement in 2007. Mac and Barbara will tell us about the city's plans for the **VB 2007** celebration of

the First Landing. There will be suggestions and ideas for our clubs' participation during this exciting period for our city and state. Each club should send representatives to hear how we can be a part of this celebration of our history.

The **Virginia Beach Master Gardeners** will also present a new awards program that includes the **VB 2007** activities.

“Celebrate Children Garden” Update

Suzie Duckworth, suzied@verizon.net, 363-1050
Cheryll Klobuchar, c-klobuchar@cox.net, 463-4885

The “Celebrate Children Garden” was dedicated on April 8, 2005. At that time the center statue was installed with three more statues to follow. It is my pleasure to inform you that these statues, **a boy** doing a handstand, **two children** playing leap frog, and **a girl** holding a butterfly on her hand, were emplaced the first week of December. A final statue of a little boy is currently being commissioned and will be installed upon delivery; the concrete base has already been poured for this statue.

The **Donor Plaque** has been ordered and will be installed sometime last winter or early spring.

If you have not had an opportunity to visit the “Celebrate Children Garden”, please take a drive down to see how lovely the garden is with pansies blooming from fall to late spring, and then with begonias taking over. The Garden has become a peaceful oasis for people to sit and wait for someone, eat lunch or just relax.

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to the member clubs of the Council of Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach, without which this garden would not have been possible.

Cheryll

Fund Raiser

Suzie Duckworth, suzied@verizon.net, 363-1050

I am happy to report my sister, **Mary Handley**, will again be speaking to us on **Wednesday, February 8th** at 10:00 a.m. at the Central Library. Her topic this year will be “*Creating a Balance on the Tightrope of Life*”.

Life can be so hectic, and trying to live a balanced life can seem to be an impossible feat. We all have so many “hats” we wear on a daily basis and trying to keep our priorities in line with what is important to us can be overwhelming. **Mary** will share with you the different “hats” she wears and how she balances time and energy to create a “balance on the tightrope of life.

Where is your scale in life? Are you in balance, or are you high on one end and low on the other? What does it take to get your scale back to the middle? When our life is in balance we have the energy to get the important things done, and leave the not so important things to another day to accomplish. We also have the energy to invest in people who are im-

portant rather than things which are never permanent.

If your life is not making an impact on the lives of others perhaps it is because you haven’t discovered that balance that makes life more fun and worthwhile. Maybe you also need to discover how to laugh and have fun. Life is a journey to enjoy along the way, not to be endured.

If you need balance in your life, come hear **Mary** share how to create balance, have fun and enjoy the journey. The tickets are **\$6.00** and will be available at our January Council meeting. Remember, this is **open to the public** so bring your neighbors and friends.

If you are unable to attend the Council meeting on January 4th, please call me and I will be happy to send you tickets. Talk with your club members, then contact me by **February 1st**, the **deadline for returning any unused tickets and the ticket sale proceeds**. Please come support the Council and enjoy a morning of laughter, fun and good food. .

Arbor Day

Johnnie Miller, JMill61558@aol.com, 467-1549

This year’s Arbor Day celebration will be held on **Friday, April 28, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. The site has

not been named. Therefore, I cannot select a school. The date was chosen due to Easter and Spring Break occurring in April. I will announce the location as soon as I obtain that information.

Francis Land House



Peggy Caverly, 490-0925
Kay Echardt, 486-7328

Thank you to everyone who so graciously gave of their time and talents to transform the Francis Land House for the Holidays.

You are all wonderful and we appreciate your efforts for this project and throughout the year.

Another big “Thanks” to the Staff of Francis Land House for their support.

Wreath-Making Workshop

Mari Hall, maroghall@aol.com, 481-3970

Once again you all were “awesome” in creating the Williamsburg-style wreaths for the city buildings. In a short two hours you created 45 works of art!

Are we fantastic or what?! We had 56 members attending, representing 15 clubs.

A most sincere “thank you” to all of you – you were “fantabulous” as always.

Empty Bowls Dinner

Dot Cullen, Garden Therapy, 496-2460

The Ceramic Designers Association is again conducting their annual fundraising event for The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia. Called the “**Empty Bowls Dinner**”, the event will be held at Virginia Wesleyan College in March. The exact date will be in the March *TAPROOT*.

We will make about 80 floral arrangements for the dinner using large soup cans and jars as containers. Please begin to save your jars and containers, **leaving the labels on**, and bring them to our January Council meeting.

I will have additional details on the workshop in the March *TAPROOT*.

Virginia Flower & Garden Show

Volunteers Needed

The Virginia Flower & Garden Show, this year’s theme, “*Magical Gardens*”, will be held **January 20, 21 and 22** at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Volunteer jobs included crafters, floral as-

sistants, greeters, raffle ticket sales, painters, announcers, landscape display builders, truck loaders and more.

If you would like to volunteer, call **Barbara Brawley** at **481-2041**.

TAPROOT

Joan Curtin, joancurtin@cox.net, 460-6493

The Council publishes *TAPROOT* six times a year. Please calendar the following dates and submission deadlines:

September/October – Deadline August 18

November/December – Deadline October 18

January/February – Deadline December 16

March – Deadline February 18

April – Deadline March 18

May – Deadline April 18

The deadline for the March issue of *TAPROOT* is Saturday, February 18, 2006.

We could never have loved the earth so well if we had had no childhood in it.

George Eliot [Mary Ann Evans] (1819-1880)

Women of Hope Project

Deborah Newell, 570-0866

Editor's Note: Deborah Newell made the following presentation at the Council's November Board Meeting. Deborah came to The Council of Garden Clubs looking for sponsorship of their founder, Betsy Beamon, as well as Gardens of Hope for Afghan Women. The Board wishes to share her message with all our members.

Afghanistan has the highest maternal and infant mortality rate in the world, and the leading cause is malnutrition. But there is a group based locally in Virginia Beach that is working to change that, one garden at a time.

Betsy Beamon founded the **Women of Hope Project** some four years ago. The women of Afghanistan are some of the poorest in the world, and women with small children have very few opportunities to earn a living. **WOHP** is helping change lives thru various projects designed to help the women become self-sufficient.

Many families fled the country during the war with Russia and re-located in refugee camps in Pakistan. These families have now returned to find their homes gone and are now living in refugee camps in Afghanistan, many of which are actually bombed out buildings with families living in one or two rooms. Most of these families are headed by women, who are now the sole income producers for their families. Most are only able to earn a living by begging in the streets. Since the Taliban wouldn't let the women work, they now have no marketable skills to use in supporting their families. Since females were also denied an education under Taliban rule, there is an entire generation of un-educated women who have no skills for the workplace.

WOHP's current emphasis is providing training and education in **hydroponic gardening**, which will enable these women to not only grow healthy and nutritious food for their families, but eventually to establish a commercial garden in which to grow food for re-sale and produce a family income. This system is clean and parasite free and requires only about 2 hours of work each day. One 10 square me-

ter garden can produce enough fresh food within 60 days for an average family of 6-8 people.

The culture of Afghanistan is male-dominated, and in many families women are still regarded as possessions rather than individuals. With the technology **WOHP** is teaching, the women do not have to leave their compound to work, and they will learn to grow vegetables to sell that can provide the highest return on their produce.

Our classes will produce three levels of gardeners. Master Trainers will be equipped in all phases of this technology, and will be taught to train other Local Trainers, who will in turn eventually teach the classes for the women in the individual camps.

We now have almost 50 families at this refugee camp in need of sponsoring. Although we have already received eight individual sponsorships, there are still more who need financial assistance.

Two Hundred Dollars will sponsor a family garden, about 10 square meters. Once established, it can be converted to a commercial garden 4 times the size, which will enable the family to begin earning a living.

Garden sponsorship includes a plaque on the garden naming the donor or donor family, and a personal letter of thanks from the woman and her family, as well as the knowledge that you have helped someone on the road to self-confidence and independence.

All contributions to the **Women of Hope Project** are tax deductible; receipts are sent to each donor.

Garden of Hope donations can be mailed to:

Women of Hope Project
4876-118 Princess Anne Road #203
Virginia Beach, VA 23462.

In addition to garden sponsorships, donations for personal support for our founder **Betsy Beamon**, who currently lives in Afghanistan in order to do the actual work for the project, are also accepted at the same address.

Should you like to receive additional information, please feel free to contact us at info@womenofhopeproject.org, or call us at 757-570-0866.

HOMEOWNERS – GARDEN LIKE A PRO PROGRAM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2006

HG Homeowners – Garden Like a Pro

8:30 **“The Lord (or Lady) of the Lawn” – Losing to the Lawn?**
Lynnette Swanson and Norfolk Grass Gurus, Virginia Cooperative Extension City of Norfolk
 Let us take you through this easy step-by-step program for the lawn of your dreams.

9:30 **Plant Selection: Where a Design Becomes a Garden**
Marie Butler – Landscape Coordinator, Virginia Zoological Park
 So many choices, so many decisions, ecological, functional, aesthetic, and ethical factors all play into making the best choice of plants to meet your landscaping needs. A horticulturist and her animal friends at the Virginia Zoological Park illustrate the plant selection process.

10:45 **So You Want a Water Garden?**
Laurie Fox – Horticulture Associate, Hampton Roads Agricultural Research Extension Center
 Water Gardens can be a beautiful, relaxing and an entertaining addition to the landscape. But without planning and understanding the can also be a maintenance nightmare. A check list of the factors to consider before adding a water garden to your landscape.

1:00 **The Facts on Fertilizer: Dispelling the Myths**
Dr. Charles Elstrodt – X-Calibur
 Yes, your plants do need to be fed and they have to rely on you to feed them since they can't buy their own food. We hear all sorts of strange claims about which fertilizer is best, but these stories never come from the plants themselves. You now have the opportunity to separate fact from fiction – keep your plants happy and healthy without killing your pocketbook.

1:45 **Pesticide Classification and Safety Issues**
Richard Johnson – Horticulturalist/Urban Extension Specialist, Pesticide Education Program, Pennsylvania State University
 This session discusses what you may be overlooking when reading the pesticide label. Are you looking for the signal words, wearing the right protective clothing, understanding the current laws, etc.?

2:30 **Container Gardening: Landscape Design in a Flower Pot**
Marie Butler – Landscape Coordinator, Virginia Zoological Park
 Container plants can hang, sit or swim; feed birds, bees, butterflies and body as well as soul; blend riotous or single colors; celebrate the passing season or provide the constancy of evergreens; make a single statement or combine to create a scene. Welcome to the wide world of gardening – all in a flowerpot.

3:30 **Air Layering and Grafting**
Michael Andruczyk – Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, Chesapeake
 Do you have several favorite plants in your landscape and would you like to have more of them? See a demonstration of two propagation techniques which are both timely and effective methods for cloning your best woody plants.

LOCATION:
Ramada Plaza Oceanfront Plaza
5700 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Questions? Call 523-4734 or E-mail MAHSC@cox.net

Individual/Company Information

Name _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Fax () _____

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Method of Payment: \$25.00 per person

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Mail to: TVHF, PO Box 64446, Virginia Beach, VA 23467 or FAX (with credit card payment) to (757) 366-9604