

August 19, 2015 President's Report

Climate Change Forum/Field Hearing

On July 17, 2015 Goshen Farm was pleased to attend a forum at the Naval Academy entitled "Climate Change at the Water's Edge." Louis and Sharon Biondi, GFPS President and Secretary, attended at the forum at the invitation of Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD). The forum featured testimony from Mayor Mike Pantelides (R-Annapolis), USNA Superintendent Vice Admiral Walter E. "Ted" Carter, Jr., Will Baker, President of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Dr. Brenda Ekwurzel from the Union of Concerned Scientists. The forum focused on the local impacts of climate change.

Members of Congress from the House Energy and Commerce Committee included Full Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD) and Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) who serves on the House Budget Committee.

County Executive Visit

On July 28, 2015 Steve Schuh, County Executive visited Goshen Farm. It appears his reaction was very positive, he stayed longer than he planned, he wanted to see everything we wanted to show him. He suggested that since Goshen Farm is owned by the Board of Education, we work through his Education Advisor, Amalie Brandenburg. I have not had a chance to follow up with a meeting, which she agreed would be a good idea, but I will try to meet with her in the next few weeks to review the meeting with Dr. Arlotto, AACPS Superintendent of Schools.

Sara Gannon, the County Executive's Constituent Services Officer for our area, conducted a video interview after the County Executive left and it was broadcast on AACTV. There was also a wonderful group picture that was taken at the end of the visit. I have emailed her twice about getting a digital copy of the photo so I can post an article and picture on our web site. She was on vacation and was supposed to be back in the office on August 17th. I will continue to follow up.

Coordination with Arlington Echo

On July 30, 2015, I met with Melanie Parker to discuss the relationship between Arlington Echo and Goshen Farm. A full summary of that meeting was provided earlier under separate cover. Met with Barbara Morgan and Larry Jennings to discuss Maryland Shellfish Growers Association involvement in the Fall Open House. Barb will cover under events. Larry may have comments.

Maryland Day 2016 Planning

On August 3, 2015 I attended the Maryland Day 2015 recap meeting. The next Maryland Day Celebration will take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 18 through 20, 2016. The organizers (Carol Benson) said she hopes everyone will choose to participate again next year, to offer an engaging activity for visitors on one (or more) of the three days. There is an earlier

commitment date this year: the form is due on October 28, 2015. 4RHA is also asking that the activities to be offered should be "Kickoff or Culminating Events."

New this year, there will be a registration fee of \$100.00 per organization to participate. The fee will cover the cost of local marketing and advertising (Facebook, Twitter, print and online ads, etc.), so this represents a fund supported by all that everyone will benefit from. Benson said that professionals in the field have helped the 4RHA determine that low levels marketing and advertising is the major negative factor in the event's success.

The next Maryland Day meeting is Monday, September 28th, 3 p.m., at a location TBD. Thanks for your interest in this important collaborative event! We look forward to a great year!

Color Fire

On August 4, 2015 met with Color Fire to discuss progress on web page conversion and transition to a new Face Book page. Also received flyer and poster design for the Annual Harvest Past Dinner.

AACPS Superintendent

Becky, Roy, Larry Jennings and I met with Dr. George Arlotto on August 17, 2015. Report provided separately.

Events

Received word from Larry Jennings that the Maryland Shellfish Growers Association would not be able to participate in the Fall Open House. They may be sufficiently organized to participate next year. My response included that GFPS would need a contractual commitment with failure to perform penalty clause and the commitment would have to come 90 days before the scheduled event. Larry understood the need for an early commitment.

Public Relations

Need to follow up on last month's contact with Michael Buckley who is the host of The Sunday Brunch on WRNR every Sunday 7am-10am. Have not heard back from him on scheduling the interview.

Contacted Bay Weekly about the possibility of a feature article on Goshen Farm. Response from the editor was that she has Goshen Farm in the planning folder and is waiting to find a writer to do the piece.

Contacted WNAV regarding a possible interview with Jim Goetz, who is a history buff. Have not received a response.

August 2015 Building Committee Report

Had not heard back from Laura Pinto about helping GFPS get access to the CSCES Wi-Fi network. Sent a follow up email since she said we would schedule a meeting when she returned in mid-July.

On August 14, 2015 we (Roy and Michael Buchet and I), met with Michael Dowling who is an architect specializing in historic properties. He was recommended by Jane Cox. He looked at the sagging floors in Room 1A (dining room) and said that there was a definite need to reinforce the supporting beam and joists and this should be done before any other improvements are made to the house. He said that he would contact two construction companies that specialize in historic properties and have them contact me, visit Goshen Farm, and provide us with recommended approaches for shoring up the floor. Dowling said he could not estimate the cost because he did not know the proposed solution to the problem. He did say he would meet with us and the contractors when they proposed an approach to fixing the problem. He would do that without charge. If needed, he said he would serve as a consultant and we could discuss his fee at that point.

Events Reports August 2015

Wine Event- Sunday, August 16th

- How do we stand on volunteers ?

Harvest Dinner- Sept 19th

- I will provide the list of inventory that I have in stock for the event.
- I need to make arrangements for someone to pick up the items that I have for the event.

Fall Open House- October 10th

- I contacted Scott about performing at the open house - he said yes.
 - He also said he has reached out to other Scout leaders to get help with parking at the event- however, now that the Maryland Oyster Growers will not attending this may not be necessary.
- I invited Cape Conservatory, Magothy River Assoc. and the Water Stewards- Brad Knopf responded from the Water Stewards and accepted our invitation. Cape Conservatory was meeting and would let us know- No response yet, the MRA email bounced, I sent an email but no response yet.
- Will need members to man grills again, work tables, set up and clean up. I will ask that Lou send the request for help to Colorfire.
- I need to seek help from a community organization to handle the children's activities.

Street Signs

- I need to pick up the Harvest Dinner and Open House signs.

Other items:

- Phantom Ball fundraiser- need to determine timing- Early Dec. for tax purposes? This will require a proposed plan. I have not had time to do this.

Requiring Board Approval/Discussion:

- We need more member help.

Goshen Farm Sharing Garden Committee Report for August 2015

Submitted by Bob Nestruck, Garden Chairman/2015 to Lou Biondi President & GFPS Board

Accomplished:

1. Terry will continue to work in the Hoop House as I take over other Garden Chair Activities.
2. 3 more plots were cleaned and weeded, others will be contacted this week.
3. Much activity in Sharing Garden and common areas well maintained
4. Sharing Garden Harvest Dinner planning meeting is 8/31/2015 @ 7pm at Terry and Susan's house.
5. Work is continuing on the Slave Garden.

Needs Accomplishing:

1. Short Term:
 - a. Establish initial educational workshops for high tunnel usage.
 - b. Recruit community groups for classes and work projects
 - c. Increase numbers of volunteers working on gardens beyond the Sharing Garden.
 - d. Establish HugelKultur to use logs and branches piled around the farm in an environmentally friendly way.

2. Long Term:
 - a. Develop plan for "Colonial" Landscape gardens around Goshen Farm House and entry road with Grounds Chairman Roy Benner and incorporating membership volunteers and possibly Navy midshipmen. Evolve working partnership with Broadneck peninsula garden clubs-esp. Cape St. Claire garden club.
 - b. Establish Goshen Farm Garden subcommittees to work on various Grounds or Garden projects.
 - c. Establish working set of relationships with local education institutions to utilize Goshen Farm grounds and Garden resources—preschool through graduate school levels as described in GFPS Business Plan.

Accomplished:

1. Cut Goshen grass three times this month. The grass and weeds are growing well.
2. One maintenance problems arose concerning the Gravely mower. A roller on the mower deck broke but had Randy Liester weld the part for \$20. The Henson – Hall Slave Garden has not seen BB&T employees this reporting period but they are scheduled for July 21, which may be their last formal visit.
3. BB&T assembled two picnic tables as part of their total donation towards the Henson – Hall Slave Garden. **Thank you again – BB&T Bank and especially Gretchen Stuecker their Vice President.**
4. Eagle Scout Projects that are coordinated under the Ground's Chair:
 - a. Lyle Wallace, working on his Eagle Scout project, has combined his three hives into two larger hives. However, he has now purchased two additional hives making a total of four. Tony Tuckfield seems to be doing something, but the writer is in the dark at the present time and awaiting his email response on his activities. Last meeting was held on site with Tony, his Scout Advisor (Jack Neil), and his mother on June 13 to try to clarify possible projects.
 - b. Leo Brown is still deciding what his Eagle Scout project will be (possibly a Monarch Waystation).
5. The "Cotton Patch" in the lower field is doing fine along with a neighboring plot planted with the "Three Sisters." A rabbit fence was installed to help save the plantings.
6. Estimates for the removal of the large, decayed Silver Maple on the southwest corner of the 1967 addition to the Goshen Farm House were requested from Richard's Tree Care has given a written estimate, but Sawyer Tree Company has not even given an estimate.
7. Installed a drainage pipe (buried) behind the High Tunnel to better remove water, especially during rainstorms.
8. Received one load of stone for the driveway. Thank you Terry and Stan for your hard work in spreading this stone to many of the eroded gullies.
9. Completed construction of the "Teepee." Thank you Kara for planting the Teepee with new plants and seeds.
10. Assisted Terry in installing the Drip Irrigation in the High Tunnel. The greenhouse is now on an automatic watering schedule.

Needs Accomplishing:

1. The driveway continues to get worse from the multiple hard rains that hit Goshen Farm during June and have continued into July. Road repair will probably take two loads of stone at a cost of about \$454 dollars per load. Grading and smoothing out the stone will require a skid steer type of equipment.
2. Need to correct security lighting at the Farm House. The light on the northeast corner seems to be set incorrectly. (It is currently "on" constantly during darkness). Need to check the settings on the back of this unit.
3. Contact Congressmen Wayne Gilchrest, Sassafras Environmental Educational Center, located at Knocks Folly in Kennedyville, Maryland, regarding his educational lesson plans and experiences in Kent County.
4. Long Term:
 - a. **Consider expanding our single lane driveway into a two-way drive. This action would allow Goshen Farm to expand future activities at Goshen Farm, relieve traffic issues, and ensure driveway safety.**
 - b. Research paving or other means of improving the driving surface of the Goshen Farm driveway.
 - c. Develop a plan to attack to control rampant growth on trees (invasive vines that strangle our growing trees).

- d. Continue descriptions of planned activities listed in the Grounds Master Use Plan and continue layout of the grounds.
- e. Pursue purchasing new water well for Goshen Farm or try to tie into county water system near Goshen Farm and the Cape St. Claire Elementary School.
- f. Pursue composting toilets, regular toilets connected to a septic system, or connecting modern toilets to the county sewer system. Jim Morrison pointed out that after their research into toilet facilities, Hancock's Resolution will be **using a large holding tank** for the bathroom effluent. He states this is a **MUCH cheaper** way to handle toilet facilities.

Needs Approval: N/A

New Business:

1. Security Camera(s) needs to be a high priority to move this effort forward.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

August 19, 2015

Submitted by Becky Benner on August 16, 2015

MEMBER TOTALS for 2015

- Members who either joined or renewed since September 20, 2014, and whose memberships thus expire December 31, 2015.

Residents

Resident Individuals = 22

Resident Households = 66

Corporate = 9

Includes

0 new Individual member

0 renewal Individual member

1 new Household member

1 renewal Household members

0 new Corporate member

0 renewal Corporate member

Total = 97 resident members

Non-Residents

Non-resident Individuals = 22

Non-resident Households = 28

Corporate = 8

Includes

0 new Individual member

1 renewal Individual member

0 new Household member

0 renewal Household member

0 new Corporate member

0 renewal Corporate member

Total = 58 non-resident members

2015 Total = 155 overall memberships

ACCOMPLISHED

- Completed spreadsheet of kayak/SUP raffle ticket names/emails/phone numbers and forwarded to GFPS' president to forward to Color Fire.
- Present with other Board of Directors for County Executive Schuh's visit to Goshen Farm.
- Attended Four Rivers Heritage Area Education Committee meeting
- Attended and volunteered for tasks for the 2015 Harvest Dinner Committee meeting regarding planning, preparation, program, etc., for September 19th Sharing Garden Dinner.
- Assisted BB&T/Arnold staff in the weaving of the wattle fence for the Henson – Hall Salve Garden.
- Visited Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm in Stroudsburg, PA. Quiet Valley is a 19th century Pennsylvania German farm dedicated to the preservation and education to visitors of rural farm life. Farm tour guides portray family members of the Johann Zepper descendents through story and hands-on demonstrations. Obtained contact names and hardcopy educational materials to

utilize in future GFPS' public, private, and home-schooled education fieldtrips. The motto of the Quiet Valley non-profit organization is "Preserving the past for our future."

- Visited Shelburne Farms in Shelburne, VT. Shelburne Farms is a 1,400-acre working farm (dairy, organic market gardens, and woodlands) promoting a sustainable food system. All educational formats are based on agriculture and the shared connections to the soil. Obtained contact names and hardcopy educational materials to utilize in future GFPS' public, private, and home-schooled education fieldtrips.
- Billings Farm in Woodstock, VT, is the third living historical farm and museum visited. It is known as the Gateway to Vermont's Rural Heritage. The consecutive three owners (not related) deeply believed in conservation, sustainable land use, and heritage of the land. As with the other living farms visited, educational fieldtrips enforce these concepts. Met and spoke at length with the Head Gardener of the Heirloom Garden who will exchange ideas and seeds with our Colonial Kitchen and Slave Gardens gardeners. Again obtained contact names and hardcopy educational materials to utilize in future GFPS' public, private, and home-schooled education fieldtrips.
- Visited Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, MA. OSV is the largest outdoor living museum in the Northeast. Its mission is to preserve early American history and serves as a learning resource for multiple educational facilities. It is a "village" contained on 200+ acres, has 54 buildings, and staff that are dressed in period costumes and go about the daily tasks and chores of the 1830 time period. Obtained some hardcopy educational materials but was told that the website contains a wealth of teacher/student materials. (It does; will utilize the materials for GFPS educational offerings.)

TO DO ITEMS

- Complete edits for GFPS bi-fold brochure.
- Incorporate suggestions for the Service Project Guidelines / Application / Consultation and Review documents for GFPS to present to any Eagle Scout, Gold Award, or Community Service applicant wishing to partner with GFPS.
- Utilize the Anne Arundel County Public Library Foundation Directory Online to search for grantors related to agriculture, agri-tainment, community gardens, community crops, environment, etc.
- Resume oral history interviews
- Take trip to National Colonial Farm in Accokeek, MD, to observe crops and gardens, educational offerings, colonial-garbed interpreters, animals, etc.
- Schedule trip to Claude Moore Park Heritage Farm Museum for educational programs, exhibits, special events, and ideas that GFPS could incorporate into Open House programs or presentations to other organizations.
- Plan to visit Button Farm in Germantown where "slave labor shaped the landscape." Intent is to observe programs, exhibits, events, ideas that could be utilized in the Henson – Hall Slave Garden or into GFPS' offerings. Button Farm offers an authentic "slave truck patch" garden that reveals the "humble subsistence farming practices" of the time.

NOTE

- August 2014 = 154 overall memberships; August 2015 = 155 overall memberships
- July 2014 = 153 overall memberships; July 2015 = 152 overall memberships
- June 2014 = 151 overall memberships; June 2015 = 151 overall memberships