

VGPG Winter Meeting 2015

9am : Set up and informal networking.

10am: Meeting officially starts.

Greeting from President Wilbur Horton and short introductions from members. (Name, where from, how many years growing, what do you grow. Personal bests (optional))

29 members in attendance from Vermont, New York and Connecticut. Several first time members attending.

10:30am:

First Club Business Discussion

Report from Ann Squires (treasurer and membership)

TREASURERS REPORT:

February 21, 2015 Checkbook balance \$11,696.86 (\$567.11 more than last year)

EXPENSES

WINTER MEETING EXPENSES (2013)	\$438.18
WEB EXPENSES	\$118.80
GPC	\$350
SEED PACKETS MAILING	\$103.50
BUBBLES	\$22.00
AUCTION PRINTING	\$28.00
AUCTION ADVERTISEMENT	\$100.00
AUCTION MAILINGS	\$160.35
SUMMER MEETING (2013)	\$137.09
WEIGH OFF PRIZES and SCALE	\$2240.00
JACKETS AWARDED 1000LBS	\$85.00

INCOME

21 PAID MEMBERSHIPS	\$315
WEIGH OFF (Mazza)	\$400
AUCTION - \$3750 gross	\$3440.15

Auction Report from Terry

Auction was once again a successful one, we raised over \$3750. We offered 54 lots which included 7 pumpkins over 2000 pounds, 10 State records, New Brunswick providence record, Belgium record as well as 3 World records! Pretty impressive line up. Auction bidding was covered from 6:00AM until midnight throughout the week of the auction. Covered by John Young, Ann Squires, Randy Stromback and Brent Towne. The team covered nearly 300 bids, 47 different winners. Every lot went for more than \$20. Only one lot was not paid and not sent (\$20 lot). Along with the 54 lots we also sent out several duplicate lots. Dick and Ann Squires did a great job getting all the lots mailed out, 90% of the lots were sent out in only one week! They were sent to 16 different states, 7 different countries, 11 packets went overseas, everyone received their seeds with no issues. Many thanks to those folks that donated seeds, Kevin Companion, John Young, Dan Boyce, Mike Cole, Laural Keys, Dick Squires, Wilbur Horton, Gene LaRiviere, Dale Duffy and especially Steve Minor (provided 25 of the 54 lots!).

Club Officer Elections

The two year terms for the office of President (held by Wilbur Horton) and Secretary (held by Terry Keim) both came to an end. Kevin Companion nominated Terry Keim for President, seconded by Dan Boyce, voted and passed by the group. Terry accepted with stipulations ☺, that he would ask others in the club to take on a larger role in the club operations. Terry Keim nominated Kerry Young for Secretary, seconded by Wendy Cadieux and passed by the group.

Club Recognition

Wilbur awarded pumpkin candles to Dan and Holly Boyce for their work on the Newsletter and the Seed Swap. Also to Matt Debacko for his educational presentations and to Bart Toftness for coming the furthest (4 hour drive). Terry Keim awarded Steve Minor and Ann Squires some VGPGA “drinking glasses” for their efforts for the on-line auction.

11am:

Matt Debacko Presentation.

Matt put together several great presentations, 1) Soil Nutrients and pH, 2) New Growers Best bang for the buck and 3) Growing a Bigger Pumpkin through Cell Division. You can find the presentation under the Team Pumpkin website; www.Team-Pumpkin.org. On the left tab “Presentations” look for **21 Feb. 2015** presentation at the **Vermont Giant Pumpkin Growers Meeting**. There is a lot of other useful information there. Check it out.

12pm:

Lunch and networking.

Free lunch consisting of cold cut buffet, tons of member provided desserts!

12:45:

Club Business and Discussion II

Weigh-off dates for 2015

Champlain Valley Fair weigh-off will most likely be Thursday (8/27/14).

The VGPGA weigh-off will once again take place at Mazza’s on Saturday September 26th.

Topsfield Fair will be October 2, 2015.

Club volunteers

The Boyces took over the Newsletter this year and did a great job. Lots of other volunteer opportunities exist (Website and Seed Auction to name a few). If anyone is interested in getting more involved send a note to the club email, (vermontgpg@hotmail.com).

Where will the club BBQ and tour be hosted?

It is the Southern growers turn to host the Summer BBQ and patch tour. Wendy and Huey Cadieux volunteered to host again. The date will be Sunday August 9th. Exact Tour route is TBD. An email will but sent out as the date gets closer.

1pm:

Additional club business

There was an impromptu Board meeting prior to the Member meeting. Several issues were discussed, 1) Multiple pumpkins at the weigh-off, 2) Choosing the Howard Dill Award, 3) Credit for auction donors, 4) Registering for VGPGA weigh-off (need to be a paid member by 8/15/15 in order to be eligible for award money) and 5) Membership dues for 2016 (raising to \$20). Once all the details are defined they will be posted on the website.

Several members had questions which were discussed around the room. Matt added some additional information regarding chemicals he suggested last year.

1:30pm-2:00pm Q&A , Awards and Fleece Presentation

Many door prizes were awarded throughout the meeting (thanks Wilbur).

Vermont Giant Pumpkin Growers Fleece jackets are awarded to those members who live in Vermont and have grown a 1000+ pumpkin (or non-Vermont members who weighed their 1000+ pumpkin at our VGPGA weigh-off). This year we had two new recipients, **Dale and Tammy Duffy** of Fairfax, VT grew a personal best 1140 lbs and **Dick and Ann Squires** of Jericho, VT mashed their previous best with a new State Record (for one week) and VPGPA site record 1649 pounds!! Both were weighed at the VPGPA weigh-off at Mazza's. Awesome. Congrats guys!

2:15pm

Meeting adjourned.

Good luck everyone growing in 2015.... 😊