

VGPG Winter Meeting 2013

9am : Set up and informal networking.

10am: Meeting officially starts.

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

31 members in attendance from Vermont, New York, Connecticut and Canada.

10:30am:

First Club Business Discussion

Report from Ann Squires (treasurer and membership)

TREASURERS REPORT:

February 22,2013	Checkbook balance	\$10,400
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EXPENSES

ANNUAL MEETING EXPENSES	\$821
WEB EXPENSES	\$108
GPC	\$300
SEED PACKETS	\$82.00
NEWS LETTER	\$13
AUCTION ADVERTISEMENT	\$100.00
SUMMER MEETING (2012)	\$150.00
NONPROFIT MEETING	\$228.00
WEIGH OFF PRIZES and SCALE	\$2240.00
JACKETS AWARDED 1000LBS	\$100.00

INCOME

39 PAID MEMBERSHIPS	\$585
REGATTA (Linking Learning to Life)	\$1000
WEIGH OFF (Mazza)	\$400
AUCTION - \$3314 income minus \$220 for shipping and bubbles gives a profit of	@ \$3100

Report from Steve and Terry (Auction)

Auction was once again a successful one, we raised over \$3000. Auction bidding was covered from 6:00AM until midnight throughout the week of the auction. Covered by Steve Minor, John Young, Ann Squires, Randy Stromback and Terry Keim. Dick and Ann Squires did a great job getting all the 67-68 lots mailed out, we received all the monies and seeds were sent out in only two weeks! Terry has investigated using an auction website (BiddingForGood) to handle our auction but they want \$600 annually as well as 9% commission. We thought that was a bit much so we'll continuing doing it the old fashion way. We have a pretty faithful following, especially from the European growers. Also we thought it would be a great idea to send VGPG hats to the "heavy-hitters" who donated seeds to our auction as a thank you from the club. Kevin Companion will send these out.

Club Recognition

Pies were awarded to Steve Minor for the auction, Ann Squires for the auction and treasurer, Terry Keim for auction and website, Randy Stromback for auction, Dan and Holly Boyce for newsletter and seed swap, and Kevin Companion for the weigh off.

Voting for New Club Officers.

Since our club is totally run by volunteers we need “willing” officers, members were “solicited” prior to the meeting and were “officially” nominated and voted on. By unanimous vote Wilbur Horton was elected the new two year President to replace John Young effective once the meeting is dismissed. Also by unanimous vote Terry Keim was elected to a two year term as Secretary. Ann Squires remains serving as Treasurer now going into her second year. It was suggested that we form a “nominating committee” for further elections.

Regatta

After five years John Young needed to take a year off due to family commitments. Terry Keim was willing to fill John’s role of organizing but the question was whether there was enough club support to provide the necessary man power. Several previous years’ key players also had scheduling issues. It did not appear there was enough support to put together the Regatta for 2013. So it was decided that we would take a year off.

GPC

After a brief discussion as to whether we join the GPC once again (this is \$300 per year) it was voted 30-1 to rejoin. Kevin Companion stated that we couldn’t get plaques and ribbons much cheaper ourselves.

11am:

Matt Debacko Presentation.

Matt gave a great presentation untitled “Think for yourself”, find the presentation under the Team Pumpkin website; www.Team-Pumpkin.org. There is a lot of other useful information there.

12pm:

Lunch and networking.

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

12:45:

Club Business and Discussion II

Important dates for 2013

John confirmed that Topsfield will be Oct 4th, hence our weigh-off date will be Oct 12th. Kevin to schedule that date with Mazzas. No Regatta this year.

Newsletter volunteers

The Boyces has been doing the Newsletter for several years and looking for another member to take over. Terry Keim volunteered as long as someone else took over the website, there were no volunteers.

How to become active in the club

There are many opportunities, it doesn’t have to be a “big” role, “many hands make light work”.

Where will the club BBQ and tour be hosted?

Wendy Patterson was first to volunteer. The Cadieux and the Boyces also said they could host. The date of August 10th was suggested and the BBQ and patch tour will be held in Southern Vermont, the three parties will confer and figure out who will actually host.

1pm:

Vermont's own master gardener presentation

Mike Cole

Mike placed fifth in the GPC Master Gardener category; he presented parts of his BP diary and mainly discussed growing tomatoes and watermelon. We determined Mike's Big Zach 3.98 lb tomato is the Vermont State Record.

1:30

Vermont's Record Pumpkin holder

Kevin Companion

Kevin set the new Vermont State record last year with his 1556.5 pumpkin. He discussed his growing techniques, patch history and some of his plans for next year. He's always willing to help out fellow growers.

2pm-2:15 Awards and Fleece Presentation

Youth: Zoey Cole (first year grower, she grew a 428 lb giant)

Hard luck grower: Wendy Patterson (she lost a 900+ lb pumpkin in late August)

Most improved: Laural Keys (she grew a second place 1330.5 lb giant, 400+ pounds over previous best)

Rookie of the year: Brent Towne (first year grower, grew a 594.5 lb giant)

Comeback grower of the year: Wendy and Huey Cadieux (grew *nothing* in 2011, last year grew 799 lbs)

Grower of the year: Kevin Companion (grew a new state record 1556.5 lb, also a new Champlain Valley Fair record 1265 lbs)

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, Mike Cole of Castleton, VT who grew a 1015.5 lb and Laurel Keys of Salem, NY who grew 1330.5 lbs.

Meeting adjourned. Members presented John a gift certificate to Applebees for his dedicated service. Steve Minor also presented John and Kerry with a couple baskets of cheer. 😊