

**Minutes**  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
**Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.**  
*Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn, Manchester, NH*  
*December 14, 2005*

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 12:20 PM by President Ken Nicewicz. President Nicewicz offered words of welcome to the membership. Twenty-four individuals were present.

***Secretary's Report***

Directors met on March 8 and November 2, 2005. Trustees of the MFGA Horticultural Research Fund met on March 4, 2005. The Annual Summer Meeting was on July 18, 2005 at Nicewicz Family Farm. Approximately 75 individuals attended the meeting. The Annual Business Meeting will be on December 14, 2005 at noon in the Armory (Expo Center of New Hampshire, Manchester).

One-hundred and forty-four individuals were members of the Association in 2005, similar to 2004. Additionally, 26 individuals have committed to a \$2,500 contribution to the University of Massachusetts Foundation to match the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture's \$50,000 pledge and the State's \$57,500 match. This group includes 3 life members, 3 courtesy members, 2 associate members, and 17 active members. These individuals will be given 10 years of membership, beginning in 2006. Below are the membership figures for 1996-2005.

Category	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Active members	51	47	45	45	43	42	49	44	43	39
Associate members	73	62	59	56	60	65	73	78	79	83
Exhibitor members	72	69	56	62	57	60	59	50	0	0
Courtesy members	16	15	15	15	14	16	11	16	16	15
Life members	8	7	7	7	7	6	4	7	7	7
Total	220	200	182	185	181	189	196	195	145	144

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the Secretary's Report. Autio presented the minutes from the December 15, 2004 Annual Business Meeting. The minutes were moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

***Treasurer's Report***

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$45,956.78. Receipts totaled \$41,562.18, and disbursements totaled \$46,773.09. The balance on December 31, 2005 was \$40,745.87. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$532,531.37. A total of \$56,077.17 in receipts and \$125,448.69 expenses occurred in 2005. Of the expenses, \$10,000 was donated to the UMass Foundation to contribute to an endowment in support of tree-fruit IPM research established by Linda Prokopy, \$50,000 was donated to the UMass Foundation as part of a pledge of \$250,000 over 5 years, and \$52,932.83 was donated to the UMass Foundation as part of a matching fund program with the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture. The balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on December 31, 2005 was \$542,708.05. In 2005, the Horticultural Research Fund gained 1.9% in value (including income and expenses). The overall investment return was 15.0%. At the end of 2005, there was additionally a total of approximately \$450,424 in the UMass Foundation under the direction of the MFGA Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund, giving a total of approximately \$993,132 in endowment moneys under MFGA control and in support of work at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and passed. *Please note that the data presented here are modified from those presented at the meeting, reflecting the final activity and balances of 2005.* Details follow.

**GENERAL FUND**

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Balance -- Bank of America + Galaxy Fund, 12/31/04		\$45,956.78
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Receipts		
Active member dues -- 2005	\$7,787.80	
Active member dues -- 2006	\$1,781.96	
Associate member dues -- 2005	\$2,072.38	
Associate member dues -- 2006	\$699.21	
Ten-year members 2006-2015	\$4,500.00	
Annual Meeting -- 2004	\$70.00	
Interest	\$624.71	
Apple Market Report	\$264.00	
Summer Meeting	\$710.00	
Horticultural Research Fund donations	\$1,228.29	
Service charge refund	\$22.99	
Adjustment due to uncashed checks	\$3,614.00	
Project Bread Grant	\$4,871.00	
Fruit Notes, Healthy Fruit, & Berry Notes	\$11,040.72	
UM Cold Spring Orchard R & E Center donations	\$1,401.69	
IPM donations	\$873.43	\$41,562.18

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Disbursements		
Administration	\$1,615.09	
Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$2,700.00	
Annual Meeting -- 2004	\$2,621.96	
Annual Meeting -- 2005	\$1,082.84	
Summer meeting	\$1,559.50	
Affiliations	\$450.00	
US Apple Association	\$7,651.00	
Transfer to Horticultural Research Fund	\$1,228.29	
Specialty Crops Grant -- Clements	\$3,832.60	
Agro-Environmental Tech. Grant -- Clements	\$355.50	
Project Bread	\$4,870.38	
Web site	\$350.00	
Ten-year member donation to Hort. Res. Fund	\$4,500.00	
Miscellaneous	\$376.09	
Apple Market Report	\$264.00	
Fruit Notes, Healthy Fruit, & Berry Notes	\$11,040.72	
UM Cold Spring Orchard R & E Center donations	\$1,401.69	
IPM Donations	\$873.43	\$(46,773.09)

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Balance -- Bank of America & PayPal, 12/31/05		\$40,745.87
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**HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH FUND**

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Balance -- Fleet Bank, 12/31/04		\$24,283.65
Receipts		
From Merrill Lynch Account	\$50,000.00	
From General Fund	\$1,228.29	
General donations	\$500.00	
Ten-year memberships	\$36,266.83	
MSPA Match	\$16,666.00	
Prokopy Memorial	\$250.00	
Morrison Foundation	\$1,000.00	
Interest	\$166.05	\$106,077.17
Disbursements		
Sincuk Fund	\$1,400.00	
Autio Grants	\$2,500.00	
Weis Grant	\$3,750.00	
Schloemann Grant	\$258.38	
Greene Grant	\$2,280.67	
Clements Grant	\$1,734.67	
UMass Cold Spring Garden	\$568.14	
Ten-year memberships to UMass Foundation	\$52,944.83	
UMass Foundation	\$50,006.00	
Prokopy Endowment	\$10,006.00	\$(125,448.69)
Balance -- Bank of America, 12/31/05		\$4,912.13
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Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/04		\$508,247.72
Cash -- 12/31/05		\$70,036.30
Transfer to Savings Account		\$(50,000.00)
Investments (value as of 12/31/05)		
Altria Group	\$14,944.00	
AMLI Residential Properties	\$7,610.00	
Chesapeake Energy	\$95,190.00	
Consolidated Edison	\$23,165.00	
Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$56,170.00	
General Electric	\$35,050.00	
Puget Energy	\$10,210.00	
Southern Company	\$17,265.00	
Thornburg Mortgage	\$26,200.00	
TXU Corporation	\$50,190.00	
Franklin Universal Trust	\$9,240.00	
Liberty All-Star Equity Fund	\$61,230.60	
Liberty All-Star Growth Fund	\$9,677.76	
Royce Value Trust	\$45,621.76	
Zweig Fund	\$5,995.50	\$467,759.62
Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/05		\$537,795.92
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Total Balance -- Horticultural Research Fund/Reserve Fund		\$542,708.05
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Overall change in value in 2005		1.9%
Overall change not related to grant expenditures and deposits		15.0%
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Davis, after auditing the 2005 data, reported that the Treasurer's Report was accurate as presented. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the Auditor's Report.

### ***Committee Reports***

The Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund (Davis), the UMass Fruit Advisory Committee (Davis), and the Marketing, Publicity, & Promotion (Nicewicz) Committee presented brief reports.

### ***New Business***

Kip Graham provided a few brief announcements from USDA-FSA, and Kelly Erwin talked briefly about the Farm-to-School Program.

### ***Nominations Committee Report and Elections***

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, Autio presented a slate of candidates for officers and directors, including Ken Nicewicz for President, Steve, Ware, Gordon Kimball, and Bill Fitzgerald for Vice Presidents, Wesley R. Autio for Secretary and Treasurer, Bob Davis for Auditor, and Gerry Bierne, Frank Carlson, Tony Lincoln, and Mo Tougas for Directors. No additional nominations were received from the floor, and a motion was made to direct the Secretary to cast a single ballot for the slate of candidates as nominated..

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary/Treasurer*