

Minutes
Annual Business Meeting
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
University of Massachusetts Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center
January 17, 2007

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 11:45AM by President Ken Nicewicz. President Nicewicz offered words of welcome to the membership.

Secretary's Report for 2006

One-hundred and twenty-one individuals renewed their membership in the Association in 2006. Of this group, 28 individuals 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 \$60,000 match. This group includes 3 life members, 3 courtesy members, 3 who were previously associate members, and 19 active members. These individuals will be given 10 years of membership, beginning this year. Below are the membership figures for 1997-2006.

Category	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Active members	47	45	45	43	42	49	44	43	39	24
Ten-year members	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
Associate members	62	59	56	60	65	73	78	79	83	69
Exhibitor members	69	56	62	57	60	59	50	0	0	0
Courtesy members	15	15	15	14	16	11	16	16	15	16
Life members	7	7	7	7	6	4	7	7	7	8
Total	200	182	185	181	189	196	195	145	144	145

The MFGA Board of Directors met on March 22 and on November 1, 2006. Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund met on March 16 and on July 14, 2006. The Annual Summer Meeting was on July 14, 2006, at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center in Belchertown. Approximately 100 individuals attended.

Autio presented the minutes from the December 14, 2005 Annual Business Meeting. The minutes were moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$40,745.87. Receipts totaled \$31,601.62, and disbursements totaled \$35,903.11. The balance on December 31, 2006 was \$36,444.38. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$542,708.05. A total of \$35,332.01 in receipts and \$111,152.67 in disbursements occurred in 2006. The balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on December 31, 2006 was \$523,365.88. In 2006, the Horticultural Research Fund gained -3.6% in value (including income and expenses). The overall investment return was 10.5%. At the end of 2006, there was additionally a total of approximately \$647,736 in the UMass Foundation under the direction of the MFGA Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund, giving a total of approximately \$1,171,102 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. Details follow.

GENERAL FUND

Balance -- Bank of America + PayPal, 12/31/05		\$40,745.87
Receipts		
Active member dues -- 2006	\$2,785.26	
Active member dues -- 2007	\$782.16	
Associate member dues -- 2006	\$949.13	
Associate member dues -- 2007	\$197.94	
Ten-year members 2006-2015	\$1,450.00	
New England Veg. & Fruit Meetings	\$7,855.00	
Interest	\$648.24	
Apple Market Report	\$230.00	
Summer Meeting	\$834.00	
Project Bread Grant	\$3,520.00	
Horticultural Research Fund donations	\$782.94	
UMass Programs, Publications, general donations	\$9,756.33	
UM Cold Spring Orchard R & E Center donations	\$783.23	
IPM donations	\$1,027.39	\$31,601.62
Disbursements		
Administration	\$2,468.35	
Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$2,800.00	
Summer meeting	\$1,914.65	
Affiliations	\$535.00	
US Apple Association	\$6,884.00	
Specialty Crops Grant -- Clements	\$1,750.00	
Agro-Environmental Tech. Grant -- Clements	\$684.50	
Project Bread Grant	\$2,336.72	
Web site	\$375.00	
Ten-year member donation to Hort. Res. Fund	\$1,450.00	
Ag. Day at the Statehouse	\$150.00	
Miscellaneous	\$1,205.00	
Adjustment -- resurected checks	\$770.00	
Transfer to MFGA Hort. Res. Fund	\$782.94	
Apple Market Report	\$230.00	
UMass Programs, Publications, general donations	\$9,756.33	
UM Cold Spring Orchard R & E Center donations	\$783.23	
IPM Donations	\$1,027.39	\$(35,903.11)
Balance -- Bank of America & PayPal, 12/31/06		\$36,444.38

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH FUND

<u>Balance -- Bank of America, 12/31/05</u>		<u>\$4,912.13</u>
Receipts		
From Merrill Lynch Account	\$80,000.00	
General donations	\$782.94	
Ten-year memberships	\$17,582.33	
Clements Grant	\$50.00	
MSPA Match	\$16,666.67	
Interest	\$250.07	\$115,332.01
Disbursements		
Sincuk Fund	\$2,678.65	
Autio Grants	\$2,500.00	
Weis Grant	\$2,500.00	
Sincuk Grant	\$7,598.07	
Greene Grant	\$3,095.33	
Clements Grant	\$5,436.62	
UMass Cold Spring Garden	\$3,084.00	
Ten-year memberships to UMass Foundation	\$34,249.00	
UMass Foundation	\$50,006.00	
Fees	\$5.00	\$(111,152.67)
<u>Balance -- Bank of America, 12/31/06</u>		<u>\$9,091.47</u>
<u>Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/05</u>		<u>\$537,795.92</u>
Cash -- 12/31/06		\$16,766.00
Transfer to Savings Account		\$80,000.00
Investments (value as of 12/31/06)		
Altria Group	\$17,164.00	
Chesapeake Energy	\$87,150.00	
Consolidated Edison	\$24,035.00	
Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$76,630.00	
General Electric	\$37,210.00	
Puget Energy	\$12,680.00	
Southern Company	\$18,430.00	
Thornburg Mortgage	\$25,130.00	
TXU Corporation	\$54,210.00	
Franklin Universal Trust	\$10,395.00	
Liberty All-Star Equity Fund	\$62,805.04	
Liberty All-Star Growth Fund	\$9,784.14	
Royce Value Trust	\$55,147.43	
Zweig Fund	\$6,737.80	\$497,508.41
<u>Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/06</u>		<u>\$514,274.41</u>
Total Balance -- Horticultural Research Fund/Reserve Fund		\$523,365.88
Overall change in value in 2006		-3.6%
Overall change not related to grant expenditures and deposits		10.5%
Approved expenditures for operation of the UMass Cold Spring Orchard		\$26,284.36
UMass Foundation--MFGA Horticultural Research Fund, 12/31/06		\$599,102.88
Donations not yet recorded plus State match		\$48,633.58
Total of all endowment moneys (MFGA Hort. Res. Fund + UMass):		\$1,171,102.34
<u>Overall change in value in 2006</u>		<u>14.9%</u>

Davis, after auditing the 2006 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 Harvest Labor (Davis), Legislative (Nicewicz), and the Marketing, Publicity, & Promotion (Nicewicz) Committee presented brief reports.

New Business

UMass College of Natural Resources & the Environment Dean Cleve Willis gave a few brief words of welcome.

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, Tom Clark, and Andre Tougas for Vice Presidents, Wes Autio for Secretary and Treasurer, Bob Davis for Auditor, and William Broderick, Glenn, Cook, Joann Dinardo, Alex Dowse, Carl Hills, Andrew Martin, and Al Rose or Directors. No additional nominations were received from the floor. Those nominated for president, vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, and auditor were elected. Broderick, Cook, Rose, and Dowse were elected to 3-year terms, Martin to a 2-year term, and Hills to a 1-year term.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

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