

Minutes
Annual Business Meeting
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center, Belchertown, MA
January 15, 2009

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 12:20 PM by President André Tougas. President Tougas offered words of welcome to the membership. Ninety-five individuals were present.

Secretary's Report

Eighty-eight individuals renewed their membership in the Association in 2008. Of this group, 27 had previously 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 \$58,570 match. This group includes 3 life members, 3 courtesy members, 3 who were previously associate members, and 18 active members. Their active membership will continue through 2015. Below are the membership figures for 1999-2008.

Category	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Active members	45	43	42	49	44	43	39	51	40	41
Associate members	56	60	65	73	78	79	83	69	35	24
Exhibitor members	62	57	60	59	50	0	0	0	0	0
Courtesy members	15	14	16	11	16	16	15	16	16	16
Life members	7	7	6	4	7	7	7	8	8	7
Total	185	181	189	196	195	145	144	145	99	88

The MFGA Board of Directors met on March 21, 2008 and again in a strategic planning session on April 18, 2008. The fall meeting of the Directors was on November 5. Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund met on April 2 and July 17, 2008. The Annual Summer Meeting was on July 16, 2008, at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center. Approximately 100 individuals attended.

Minutes of the previous (December 12, 2007) Annual Business Meeting were presented, moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$36,285.86. Receipts totaled \$149,224.56, and disbursements totaled \$122,336.20. The balance on December 31, 2008 was \$53,174.22. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$522,604.74. A total of \$4,131.62 in receipts and \$62,855.48 expenses occurred in 2008. Of the expenses, \$50,000 was donated to the UMass Foundation as part of a pledge of \$250,000 over 5 years. The balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on December 31, 2008 was \$286,774.17. In 2008, the Horticultural Research Fund lost 45.1% in value (including income and expenses). The overall investment loss was 33.9%. At the end of 2008, there was additionally a total of approximately \$690,000 in the UMass Foundation under the direction of the MFGA Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund, giving a total of approximately \$983,650 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, 12/31/07		\$26,285.86
Receipts		
Active member dues -- 2008	\$2,581.84	
Associate member dues -- 2008	\$594.85	
Active member dues -- 2009	\$193.99	
Associate member dues -- 2009	\$72.56	
Ten-year members 2006-2015	\$833.50	
New England Veg. & Fruit Meetings	\$8,000.00	
Interest	\$322.31	
Summer Meeting	\$2,111.35	
Winter Meeting -- 2009	\$367.29	
AIC Grant -- Clements	\$103,590.81	
MSPA Strategic Planning Grant	\$500.00	
Essex County Fruit Growers Grant	\$2,500.00	
Horticultural Research Fund donations	\$248.51	
UMass Programs, Publications, general donations	\$26,914.84	
UM Cold Spring Orchard R & E Center donations	\$193.51	
IPM donations	\$199.20	\$149,224.56
Disbursements		
Administration	\$3,632.96	
Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$2,800.00	
Summer meeting	\$1,823.60	
Affiliations	\$1,460.00	
US Apple Association	\$5,935.00	
Specialty Crops Grant -- Clements	\$250.00	
AIC Grant -- Clements	\$73,685.86	
MSPA Strategic Planning Grant	\$262.42	
Essex County Fruit Growers Grant	\$2,500.00	
Project Bread	\$607.84	
Web site	\$425.00	
Ag. Day at the Statehouse	\$150.00	
Miscellaneous	\$666.07	
Transfer to MFGA Hort. Res. Fund	\$833.50	
UMass Programs, Publications, general donations	\$26,911.24	
UM Cold Spring Orchard R & E Center donations	\$193.51	
IPM Donations	\$199.20	-\$122,336.20
Balance -- Bank of America & PayPal, 12/31/08		\$53,174.22

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH FUND

Balance -- Bank of America, 12/31/07		\$21,189.55
Receipts		
From Merrill Lynch Account	\$50,000.00	
General donations	\$1,025.00	
Ten-year memberships	\$2,917.50	
Interest	\$189.12	\$54,131.62
Disbursements		
Greene Grants	\$2,400.00	
Schloemann Grant	\$4,480.54	
Sincuk Grant	\$2,900.00	
Clements Grant	\$157.44	
Ten-year memberships to UMass Foundation	\$2,917.50	
UMass Foundation	\$50,000.00	-\$62,855.48
Balance -- Bank of America, 12/31/08		\$12,465.69
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Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/07		\$501,415.19
Cash -- 12/31/08		\$1,041.00
Transfer to Savings Account		\$50,000.00
Investments (value as of 12/31/08)		
Altria Group	\$3,012.00	
Chesapeake Energy	\$48,510.00	
Consolidated Edison	\$19,465.00	
Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$79,830.00	
General Electric	\$16,200.00	
Kraft Foods	\$3,705.30	
Philip Morris	\$8,702.00	
Puget Energy	\$13,635.00	
Southern Company	\$18,500.00	
Thornburg Mortgage	\$15.50	
Franklin Universal Trust	\$5,625.00	
Liberty All-Star Equity Fund	\$20,919.50	
Liberty All-Star Growth Fund	\$5,699.20	
Royce Value Trust	\$26,160.02	
Zweig Fund	\$3,288.96	\$273,267.48
Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/08		\$274,308.48
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Total Balance -- Horticultural Research Fund/Reserve Fund		\$286,774.17
Overall change in value in 2008		-45.1%
Overall change not related to grant expenditures and deposits		-33.9%
Approved expenditures for operation of the UMass Cold Spring Orchard		\$26,832.18
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UMass Foundation--MFGA Horticultural Research Fund, 11/30/08		\$617,498.15
Donations + pending match		\$79,376.25
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Total of all endowment moneys (MFGA Hort. Res. Fund + UMass):		\$983,648.57
Overall change in value in 2008		-26.1%

Nominations Committee Report and Elections

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, Autio presented a slate of candidates for officers and directors, including Andre Tougas for President, Mark Parlee, Andrew Martin, and Al Rose for Vice Presidents, Wes Autio for Secretary and Treasurer, Bob Davis for Auditor, and Joanne Dinardo, Mo Tougas, David Chandler, Frank Carlson, and Gerry Beirne for Directors. No additional nominations were received from the floor. Nominated candidates for president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and auditor were elected. Joanne Dinardo, Mo Tougas, David Chandler, and Frank Carlson were elected as directors for 3 years.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

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