

Minutes
Annual Business Meeting
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn, Manchester, NH
December 17, 2003

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by President Timothy Smith. President Smith offered words of welcome to the membership. Twenty individuals were present.

Secretary's Report

The Annual Business Meeting was held on January 8, 2003, with 24 members present. Directors met on February 13 and December 3. Trustees of the MFGA Horticultural Research Fund met on March 19. The Annual Summer Meeting was on July 23 at Apex Orchards. Approximately 150 individuals attended the meeting.

One-hundred and ninety-five individuals were members of the Association in 2003, similar to 2002. Below are the membership figures for 1995-2003.

Category	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Active members	52	51	47	45	45	43	42	49	44
Associate members	58	73	62	59	56	60	65	73	78
Exhibitor members	67	72	69	56	62	57	60	59	50
Courtesy members	18	16	15	15	15	14	16	11	16
Life members	8	8	7	7	7	7	6	4	7
Total	203	220	200	182	185	181	189	196	195

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the Secretary's Report.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$73,816.82. Receipts totaled \$42,575.13, and disbursements totaled \$83,428.84. The balance on December 31, 2003 was \$32,963.11. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$360,625.01. A total of \$2,500.00 was moved into the Horticultural Research Fund from the General Fund, \$1,725.00 were received as general donations, and \$93.54 were received as interest. In total, \$17,483.59 were expended on grants. The balance on December 31, 2003 was \$438,664.18 (an overall increase of 21.6%). Please note that the data presented here are slightly modified from those presented at the meeting, reflecting the final activity and balances of 2003. Details follow.

GENERAL FUND

Balance -- Fleet Bank, 12/31/02		\$73,816.82
Receipts		
Active member dues -- 2003	\$8,800.00	
Associate member dues -- 2003	\$1,950.00	
Exhibitor member dues -- 2003	\$425.00	
Exhibitor member dues -- 2004	\$0.00	
Annual meeting -- 2003	\$9,099.00	
Annual meeting registration fee -- 2003	\$7,550.00	
Annual meeting -- Dec. 2003	\$0.00	
Summer meeting	\$0.00	
Subscriptions	\$35.00	
Cider	\$650.00	
Galaxy Fund interest	\$280.91	
Apple Market Report	\$372.00	
Horticultural Research Fund donations	\$625.00	
Travel	\$258.22	
Agro-Environmental Tech. Grant -- Schloemann	\$1,190.00	
Agro-Environmental Tech. Grant -- Clements	\$5,850.00	
Fruit Notes & Healthy Fruit	\$4,030.00	
UM Cold Spring Orchard R & E Center donations	\$805.00	
IPM donations	\$655.00	\$42,575.13
Disbursements		
Administration	\$2,087.45	
Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$2,600.00	
Annual meeting -- 2003	\$23,353.49	
Annual meeting -- Dec. 2003	\$211.00	
Proceedings -- 2001/2/3	\$1,000.00	
Cider	\$650.00	
Web page	\$0.00	
Summer meeting	\$0.00	
Affiliations	\$1,015.00	
US Apple Association	\$8,204.00	
New England Tree Fruit Growers Res. Com.	\$0.00	
Transfer to Horticultural Research Fund	\$3,125.00	
Specialty Crops Grant -- Clements	\$23,412.81	
Specialty Crops Grant -- Prokopy	\$7,158.99	
Agro-Environmental Tech. Grant -- Schloemann	\$490.00	
Agro-Environmental Tech. Grant -- Clements	\$3,916.22	
Travel	\$258.22	
Service charge	\$18.66	
Ag. Day at the Statehouse	\$150.00	
Apple Market Report	\$288.00	
Fruit Notes & Healthy Fruit	\$4,030.00	
Horticultural Research Center Donations	\$805.00	
IPM Donations	\$655.00	\$(83,428.84)
Balance -- Fleet Bank + Galaxy Fund, 12/31/03		\$32,963.11

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH FUND

Balance -- Fleet Bank, 12/31/02		\$13,244.19
Receipts		
Sincuk Fund	\$1,725.00	
From General Fund	\$2,500.00	
From Merrill Lynch Investment Account	\$10,000.00	
Interest	\$93.54	\$14,318.54
Disbursements		
Sincuk Fund	\$8,704.15	
Weis Grant	\$1,506.00	
Sign Grant	\$696.00	
Irrigation Grant	\$3,458.98	
Autio Grant	\$1,006.00	
Clements Grant	\$566.78	
Sincuk Grant	\$810.30	
Leahy Grant	\$735.38	\$(17,483.59)
Balance -- Fleet Bank, 12/31/03		\$10,079.14
Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/02		\$347,380.82
Cash -- 12/31/03		\$95,566.00
Transfer to Fleet Bank account	\$10,000.00	
Investments (value as of 12/31/03)		
Altria Group	\$10,884.00	
AMLI Residential Properties	\$5,360.00	
Chesapeake Energy	\$40,740.00	
Consolidated Edison	\$21,505.00	
Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$41,000.00	
General Electric	\$30,980.00	
Puget Energy	\$11,885.00	
Southern Company	\$15,125.00	
Thornburg Mortgage	\$27,200.00	
TXU Corporation	\$11,860.00	
Franklin Universal Trust	\$8,745.00	
Liberty All-Star Equity Fund	\$59,002.02	
Liberty All-Star Growth Fund	\$9,992.29	
Royce Value Trust	\$33,144.93	
Zweig Fund	\$5,595.80	\$333,019.04
Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/03		\$428,585.04
Total Balance -- Horticultural Research Fund/Reserve Fund		\$438,664.18
Overall change in value in 2003		21.6%
Overall change not related to grant expenditures and deposits		22.5%
Approved expenditures for operation of the Horticultural Research Center		\$23,777.28

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report. Davis, after auditing the 2003 data, reported that the Treasurer's Report was accurate as presented. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the Auditor's Report.

New England Fruit Meetings & Trade Show – 2004

Smiley presented the available options for meeting in New Hampshire in December, 2004.

Motion: *The New England Fruit Meetings & Trade Show will be held on December 15 and 16, 2004 at the Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn in Manchester, NH. Two concurrent sessions will be presented during each of the two days, one featuring tree-fruit crops and the other featuring vegetable and small-fruit crops.*

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Nominations Committee Reports

Smith presented a slate of candidates for officers and directors, including Ken Nicewicz for President, Steve, Ware, Gordon Kimball, and Bill Fitzgerald for Vice Presidents, Wes Autio for Secretary and Treasurer, Bob Davis for Auditor, and David Bishop, Bill Broderick, Tom Clark, and Alex Dowse for directors. No nominations were received from the floor, so it was moved, seconded, and passed to instruct the Secretary to cast a single ballot for the slate of candidates.

President Smith passed the gavel to Ken Nicewicz, the incoming president, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wesley R. Autio', written in a cursive style.

Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary/Treasurer*