

Minutes
Annual Business Meeting
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Center of New Hampshire Radisson Hotel, Manchester, NH
December 12, 2007

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM by President Ken Nicewicz. President Nicewicz offered words of welcome to the membership. Twenty-five individuals were present.

Secretary's Report

Ninety-nine individuals renewed their membership in the Association in 2007. Of this group, 27 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. These individuals will be given 10 years of membership, beginning last year. Below are the membership figures for 1998-2007.

Category	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Active members	45	45	43	42	49	44	43	39	24	13
Ten-year members	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	27
Associate members	59	56	60	65	73	78	79	83	69	35
Exhibitor members	56	62	57	60	59	50	0	0	0	0
Courtesy members	15	15	14	16	11	16	16	15	16	16
Life members	7	7	7	6	4	7	7	7	8	8
Total	182	185	181	189	196	195	145	144	145	99

The MFGA Board of Directors met on March 20 and on November 2, 2007. Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund met on March 28 and on November 7, 2007. The Annual Summer Meeting was on July 12, 2007, at Bolton Orchards. Approximately 100 individuals attended. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the Secretary's Report. Autio presented the minutes from the July 17, 2007 Annual Business Meeting. The minutes were moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$36,444.38. Receipts totaled \$20,471.13, and disbursements totaled \$30,629.65. The balance on December 31, 2007 was \$26,285.86. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$523,365.88. A total of \$28,773.52 in receipts and \$86,675.44 expenses occurred in 2007. Of the expenses, \$50,000 was donated to the UMass Foundation as part of a pledge of \$250,000 over 5 years, and \$27,400.51 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 \$522,604.74. In 2007, the Horticultural Research Fund lost 0.1% in value (including income and expenses). The overall investment return was 11.0%. At the end of 2007, there was additionally a total of approximately \$809,248 in the UMass Foundation under the direction of the MFGA Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund, giving a total of approximately \$1,331,853 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 2007.* Details follow.

GENERAL FUND

Balance -- Bank of America + PayPal, 12/31/06		\$36,444.38
Receipts		
Active member dues -- 2007	\$1,769.66	
Associate member dues -- 2007	\$669.73	
Active member dues -- 2008	\$193.90	
Ten-year members 2006-2015	\$833.50	
Interest	\$433.66	
Summer Meeting	\$1,516.90	
Horticultural Research Fund donations	\$496.66	
UMass Programs, Publications, general donations	\$13,991.80	
UM Cold Spring Orchard R & E Center donations	\$287.66	
IPM donations	\$277.66	\$20,471.13
Disbursements		
Administration	\$2,984.85	
Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$2,800.00	
Summer meeting	\$1,384.66	
Affiliations	\$60.00	
US Apple Association	\$6,168.00	
Specialty Crops Grant -- Clements	\$250.00	
Web site	\$350.00	
Ten-year member donation to Hort. Res. Fund	\$833.50	
Ag. Day at the Statehouse	\$150.00	
Miscellaneous	\$594.86	
Transfer to MFGA Hort. Res. Fund	\$496.66	
UMass Programs, Publications, general donations	\$13,991.80	
UM Cold Spring Orchard R & E Center donations	\$287.66	
IPM Donations	\$277.66	\$(30,629.65)
Balance -- Bank of America & PayPal, 12/31/07		\$26,285.86

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH FUND

Balance -- Bank of America, 12/31/06		\$9,091.47
Receipts		
From Merrill Lynch Account	\$70,000.00	
General donations	\$946.66	
Ten-year memberships	\$10,733.84	
MSPA Match	\$16,666.67	
Interest	\$426.35	\$98,773.52
Disbursements		
Autio Grants	\$2,750.00	
Schloemann Grant	\$2,247.20	
Sincuk Grant	\$3,402.73	
Clements Grant	\$875.00	
Ten-year memberships to UMass Foundation	\$27,400.51	
UMass Foundation	\$50,000.00	\$(86,675.44)
Balance -- Bank of America, 12/31/07		\$21,189.55
Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/06		\$514,274.41
Cash -- 12/31/07		\$30,435.00
Transfer to Savings Account		\$70,000.00
Investments (value as of 12/31/07)		
Altria Group	\$15,116.00	
Chesapeake Energy	\$117,600.00	
Consolidated Edison	\$24,425.00	
Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$93,690.00	
General Electric	\$37,070.00	
Kraft Foods	\$4,502.94	
Puget Energy	\$13,715.00	
Southern Company	\$19,375.00	
Thornburg Mortgage	\$9,240.00	
Franklin Universal Trust	\$10,365.00	
Liberty All-Star Equity Fund	\$57,802.95	
Liberty All-Star Growth Fund	\$11,729.28	
Royce Value Trust	\$50,593.34	
Zweig Fund	\$5,755.68	\$470,980.19
Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/07		\$501,415.19
Total Balance -- Horticultural Research Fund/Reserve Fund		\$522,604.74
Overall change in value in 2007		-0.1%
Overall change not related to grant expenditures and deposits		11.0%
UMass Foundation--MFGA Horticultural Research Fund, 12/31/07		\$699,339.53
Donations + pending match		\$109,908.72
Total of all endowment moneys (MFGA Hort. Res. Fund + UMass):		\$1,331,852.99
Overall change in value in 2007		13.7%

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report. Davis, after auditing the 2007 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 Legislative (Nicewicz), 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

It was moved that the Association install a memorial plaque at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard in honor of Tony Lincoln's years of service to the industry and to the UMass Apple IPM Program. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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 Tom Clark, Joann Dinardo, Tim Smith, Bob Tuttle, and Steve Ware for Directors. No additional nominations were received from the floor. Nominated candidates for president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and auditor were elected. Tom Clark, Tim Smith, Bob Tuttle, and Steve Ware were elected as directors for 3 years.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

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