

Northern Nut Growers Association, Inc.



2014 Stakeholders' Report

Mission Statement and Purposes

Revised August 2002

Mission Statement

The Northern Nut Growers Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization of people interested in growing nut trees and minor fruits such as pawpaws and persimmons. We achieve our Purposes by discussions at our annual meetings, through our publications, with our award-winning web site, and through interactions with other nut growing organizations throughout North America and the world.

Purposes

The Purposes of the NNGA shall be to:

1. Promote interest in and disseminate information about nuts, nut bearing trees, and selected minor fruits (such as pawpaws and persimmons) of the temperate zone;
2. Promote scientific research in the breeding and culture of nut bearing trees and selected minor fruits of the temperate zone;
3. Promote the standardization of cultivar names and the development of genetic bases for the establishment of the identity of cultivars of nut bearing trees and selected minor fruits of the temperate zone;
4. Promote the production of nuts and selected minor fruits of the temperate zone for both commercial and home use; and
5. Advance the culture and use of nuts, nut bearing trees, and selected minor fruits of the temperate zone.

President's Report

2014 President's Report Not Received

Financial Report (Unaudited)

1 October, 2013 – 30 September, 2014

Prepared by Bill Sachs, Treasurer

Income

General Fund Income	Actual
Memberships (PayPal: \$6,075.00; Checks: \$6,675.00)	\$12,750.00
Advertising	\$2,244.00
Book Sales (PayPal: \$1,127.00; Checks: \$247.69)	\$1,374.69
Promotional Items	\$0.00
Misc. (reimbursement, donation)	\$590.00
Cash transfer from Life Member Fund	\$2,016.83
Grant Disbursement from TFEC NNGA Endowment	\$372.00
Interest, Dividends, Capital Gains	\$1,074.01
Total	\$20,421.53
<i>Annual Meeting surplus (Ohio)</i>	\$769.28
TOTAL INCOME	\$21,190.81

Expenses

General Fund Expenses	Actual
Annual Report (including mailing and tax)	\$0.00
The Nutshell (including mailing and tax)	\$17,320.39
Marketing	\$0.00
Editor/K. Molnar expenses	\$273.80
File Maintenance (including tax)	\$480.00
Secretary/T. Molnar expenses	\$83.62
Office Supplies, photocopying, software	\$13.38
Post Office Box	\$232.00
Treasurer/postage	\$151.85
Promotional Items	\$0.00
Mailing books and Promotional Items	\$108.39
Insurance (bonding Treasurer)	\$202.00
PayPal fees	\$204.53
Accountant, income tax preparation	\$1,594.00
Miscellaneous expenses	\$0.00
Refunds	\$0.00
Total	\$20,818.96
<i>Annual Meeting deficit (Michigan)</i>	\$760.92
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$21,579.88

Research Grant Expenditures

1 October, 2013 – 30 September, 2014

Description	Amount
Recipient	
Univ Kentucky (Rieske-Kinney)	\$3,462.00
Univ Kentucky (Rieske-Kinney)	\$853.00
Rutgers Univ (Meuhlbauer)	\$1,961.36
Research Grants, Total Expenditures	\$6,256.36

Assets

30 September, 2014

Asset	Amount
General Endowment, TFEC, Harrisburg ¹	\$10,842.01
Research Endowment, TFEC, Harrisburg ²	\$14,268.85
Library Checking Account Balance	\$1,573.51
PayPal Balance	\$1,384.01
General Fund Money Market Balance ³	\$3,013.85
Investment value: General Fund	\$65,371.68
Investment value: Life Member's Fund ⁴	\$42,792.91
Investment value: Research Fund	\$189,710.19
Research Fund Money Market Balance ⁵	\$9,533.94
TOTAL LISTED ASSETS	\$338,490.95

¹Includes dividends (\$372.40) and fees (-\$267.70).

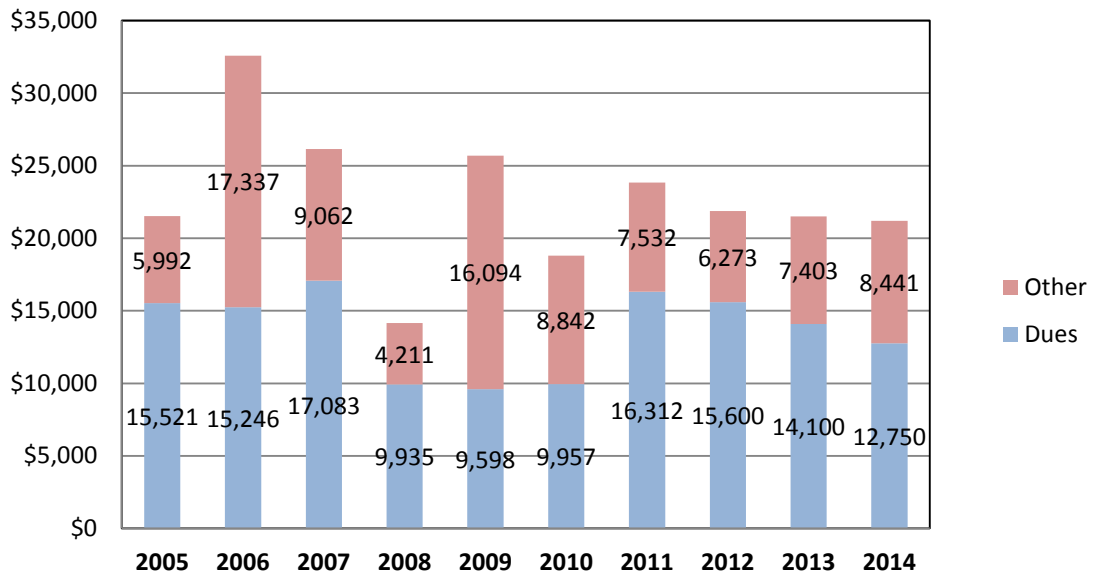
²Includes dividends (\$489.06) and fees (-\$273.95).

³Includes interest, dividends and capital gains from General Fund investments (\$1,074.01).

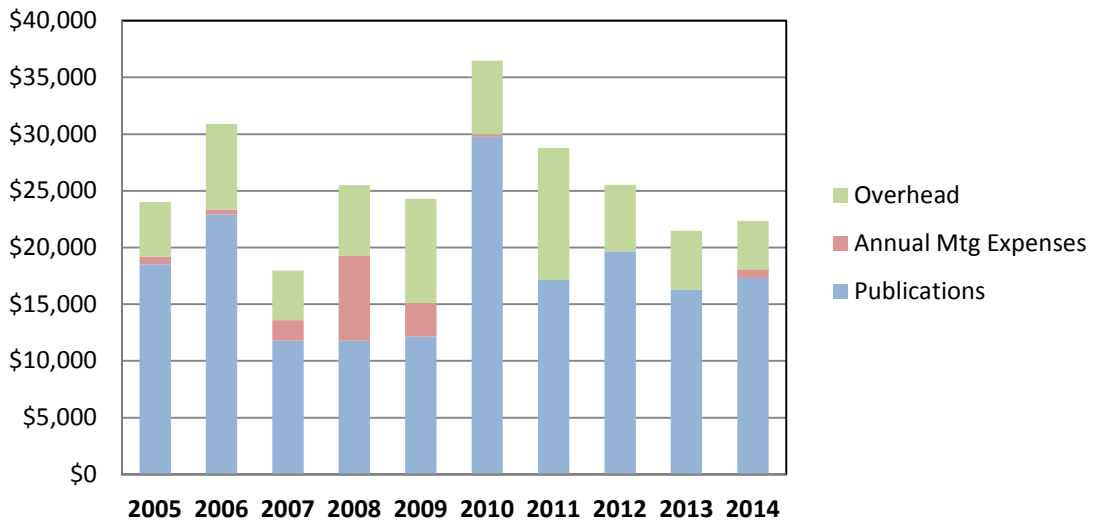
⁴174 Life and Honorary members. Includes dividends and capital gains from Life Fund investments (\$723.56) less cash transfer to General Fund (\$2,016.83).

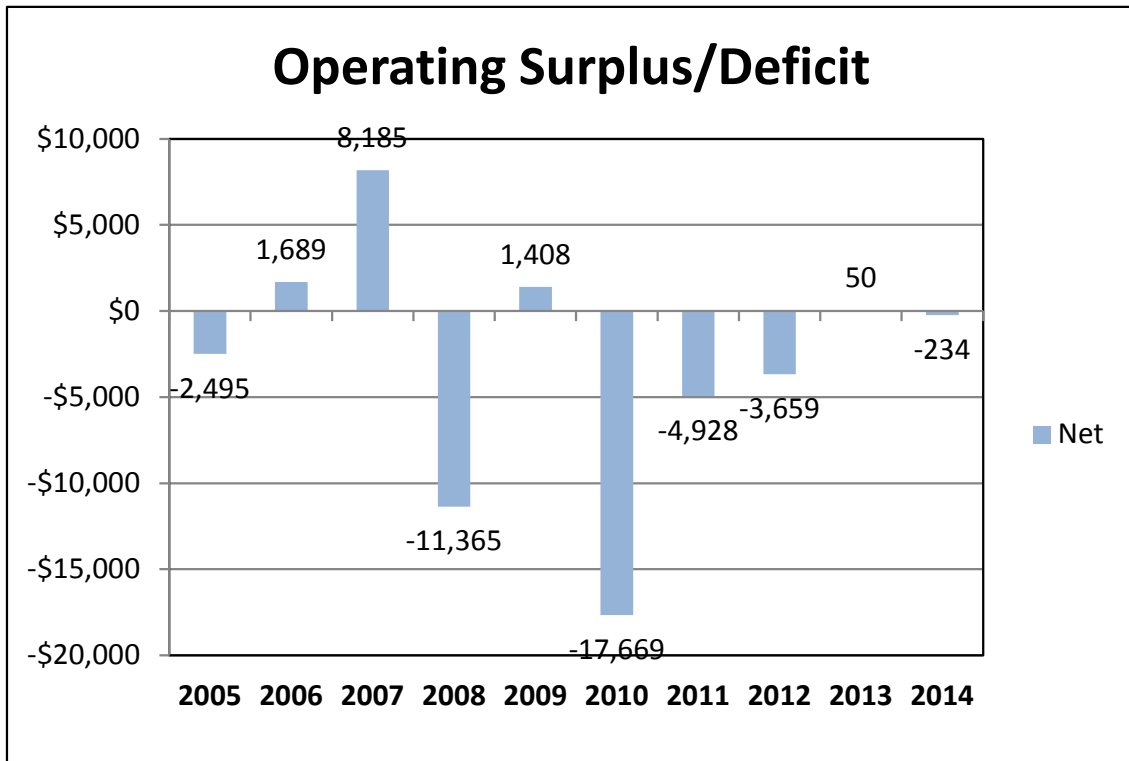
⁵Includes Research Fund interest, dividends, and capital gains (\$3,315.24), proceeds from the Annual Auction (\$1,562.00), donations (\$1,212.00), and a grant disbursement from NNGA's TFEC Research Endowment (\$509.00).

Operating Income



Expenses





Notes on the Treasurer's Report for 2013 – 2014

Please refer to the accompanying tables and charts for detailed information about NNGA's financial performance during FY2014. The notes below are intended to highlight some of the more significant data in these tables.

Income

Dues payments are NNGA's principal source of operating revenue supporting publication of *The Nutshell* and *Annual Report*. Other sources of income include interest and dividends from investments, advertising, the sale of books and promotional items, and surplus revenue from annual meetings.

Dues income declined 10% in FY2014 compared with FY2013. Income from the sale of

books and promotional items also declined this year, but advertising revenue increased. NNGA realized a modest surplus from our 101st Annual Meeting in Ohio and a modest deficit from our 104th Annual Meeting in Michigan.

NNGA received \$155 in research donations during FY2013, and our 18th annual auction at the 105th Annual Meeting in Oregon this past summer netted \$2,619 for research which included \$1,057 in outright donations. Thanks to our donors, and members and guests who attend our annual meeting and bid generously at our research auction, we have been able to continue to award research grants annually.

Expenses

The cost of printing and mailing *The Nutshell* and *Annual Report* along with occasional miscellaneous publications comprises the lion's share of NNGA's annual operating expenses, averaging about 70% of total annual operating expenditures. Our remaining over-

head expenses in FY2014 consisted mostly of office and mailing expenses, and our accountant’s charge for preparing our federal income tax return. Overall, our operating expenses in FY2014 decreased by \$2,200 compared with FY2013. NNGA had a small operating deficit of approximately \$230 in FY2014 (see chart).

Printing and mailing expenses increased by approximately \$1,000 in FY2013. This is the fourth year NNGA has co-published *The Nutshell* with the *Annual Report* from the preceding summer’s annual meeting.

NNGA awarded two new research grants in FY2014 and dispersed nearly \$6,300 in grant money.

Liabilities

NNGA’s future liabilities at year end included the cost of assembling, printing and mailing its three unpublished *Annual Reports* in one consolidated issue at an anticipated cost of between \$7,000 and \$10,000; the publication of the second volume of “A Guide to Nut Tree Culture in North America;” and approximately \$13,000 in outstanding research grant commitments.

Assets

With the continued improvement in financial markets this year, the total value of NNGA’s assets increased from \$320,977 to \$338,491 in FY2014. \$114,136 of this is unrestricted. Restricted assets dedicated to funding research grants now total \$224,355.

Membership

Membership is the key to NNGA’s financial health. NNGA had 480 members at the end 2014, 183 of whom were LIFE or other category of non-paying member. Of our remaining 297 dues-paying members, 221 must renew their memberships by the time the June 2015 *Nutshell/AR* is ready for mailing in order to continue to receive membership benefits. According to NNGA’s bylaws, delinquent members are to be dropped from the membership role on April 1, but because the Spring

Nutshell/AR is typically mailed late in the spring, delinquent members receive a “grace” copy.

Annual membership attrition can be tracked using data from our membership database near the end of the membership year. Based on the data currently available, the following table shows attrition for the past five years:

Membership Year	Paid-Up Dues-Paying Members*	Non-Renewing Members
2010	382	137
2011	510	66
2012	381	238
2013	361	144
2014	297	149

*Year-end

The increase in dues-paying members in 2011 was due in part to 95 new members recruited by Bob Stehli at a chestnut seedling giveaway in collaboration with the Portage County Soil and Water Department in Ohio. The increase in non-renewing members in 2012 probably resulted from the dues increase in calendar 2011 from \$25 to \$40.

With four printed co-published issues of *The Nutshell* and *Annual Report*, NNGA needs approximately 600 dues-paying members to cover its operating expenses with dues alone. Since the Board voted at the 104th Annual Meeting to replace the fourth co-published issue of *The Nutshell* and *Annual Report* beginning in 2014 with an online photo-journal issue, the number of dues paying members required to cover NNGA’s operating expenses will decrease in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Sachs

105th Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Northern Nut Growers Association, Inc.
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
Sunday, 10 August 2014

ATTENDANCE

Board members present:

Dennis Fulbright, President	Tim Ford Greg Miller
Bill Sachs, Treasurer	Troy Pabst Jeanne Romero- Severson
Sandra Anagnostakis	

Board members participating by conference call:

Robert Stehli, Vice President	Tom Molnar, Secretary
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Board members absent:

Mark Coggeshall	John Brittain
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Appointees and Guests:

Robert Hambleton	Jerry Lehman
Rodney Hart	Sally Martyn
Jerry Henkin	Shawn
Marsha Henkin	Mehlenbacher
Joe Hietter	Ron Powell

At 9:00 AM President Dennis Fulbright welcomed everyone and had Shawn Mehlenbacher introduce his assistant Becky McClusky.

Minutes from the 104th Annual Meeting as published in the 2013 Stakeholders' Report

Motion:

Moved by Troy Pabst, seconded by Sandra Anagnostakis that the minutes be approved as circulated in the *Stakeholders' Report*.

Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Action by E-mail

None

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report was given by Tom Molnar, a full copy of which is reproduced in *Individual and Committee Reports* on page 14.

Tom stated that his expenses were under \$100 due to the fact that personal money and grants had helped cover his costs of attending meetings. He did not wish this to be precedent setting. He wanted to express special thanks to Tucker Hill for continuing to answer questions and helping people. Dennis Fulbright requested that Tucker Hill be listed as Secretary Emeritus in *The Nutshell* and reports.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was given by Bill Sachs, a full copy of which begins on page 4.

Bill Sachs presented materials outlining Membership, Research Funds, Assets, Income, Expenses, Investments, and comparison graphs for Operating Income and Operating Surplus/Deficit, and Membership. He thanked Mari Stehli, who prepared the tax return at a lower cost to NNGA. Membership dropped from 519 in 2013 to 427 in 2014. We need 525 dues paying members to balance the budget but only have 244 dues paying members. Fifty-five new members joined this year. We operated with a \$50 surplus this past year after three years of a deficit. Our total assets are \$350 429 which is up 17%. Bill reported that there is \$156.00 in monies available for the Research Grants this

year prior to the auction but has the ability to liquidate up to \$10,000.

Dennis Fulbright asked that a thank you note be sent to Roger Bauser at Zuckerman's Deli for a \$400 donation. (Tom Mulnar to send the note.)

A discussion occurred concerning the Greater Harrisburg (TFEC) Funds. Jerry Lehman is doing an analysis of all the investments.

OTHER REPORTS AND RELATED ACTION

Investment Advisory Committee

No report as no meeting was held.

Membership Director

No report.

Advertising Manager

No report.

Research Grants Committee Report

Greg Miller reported that there were two very worthy proposals submitted and that the committee had not made up its mind. Their decision will be reported at the banquet portion of the business meeting. A copy of the committee's final report for 2014 is reproduced in *Individual and Committee Reports* on page 14.

Dennis Fulbright requested that a history of the grants we have given out be published in *The Nutshell*. Greg Miller will look after this report.

Librarian

The Librarian's report was given by Jerry Henkin, a full copy of which is reproduced in *Individual and Committee Reports* on page 13.

Jerry Henkin submitted a written report noting that he filled 13 orders. He noted that there

was \$1,431.94 left in the account. Jerry had a printed poster made from a NNGA Pioneer Collage made by Carl Weschke. He is selling them for \$25 each.

Nutshell Editor

Dennis Fulbright reported that Karey Molnar had to resign due to other pressures as well as a lack of format that would make it easier for an editor. Bill Sachs has been doing the job since December 31, 2013. Dennis has agreed to help. The editorial committee started out well but deteriorated. The new format will include a calendar and other regular features. Dennis reported that only 10 to 20 people submit their presentations at the annual meeting for printing in the *Annual Report*. Greg Miller reported that he had a possible replacement for layout editor. Gina DeNardi is a PhD candidate in English at Kent State and her dissertation is on presenting scientific papers to the lay public.

Motion:

Moved by Dennis Fulbright, seconded by Tim Ford that we offer the position of layout editor and advertising manager to Gina DeNardi at \$500 per issue subject to further discussions with Bill Sachs.

Carried.

Web Master

Marsha Henkin reported that Charles sent in an update for the Cultivar Inventory which is on a spread sheet but it was never updated. Joe Hietter volunteered to update it for the web site. Dennis Fulbright appointed Joe Hietter as the new Cultivar Inventory Chair.

Marsha will check out membership systems. At present the mailing house records new memberships and renewals when Bill Sachs sends them in.

Following the committee reports, additional “old business” was addressed:

Life Memberships: It was agreed last year that there will be no new life memberships but it was never reported to the membership. Dennis will make sure it gets in *The Nutshell* and it will be voted on at the 2015 annual meeting.

Reducing the Number of Printed Nutshells: It was agreed that we would publish three printed *Nutshells* and do one online only in December that would feature photos. The membership does not yet know this so Dennis Fulbright will do a write up for the September *Nutshell* informing the membership.

Student Memberships to be made easier: tabled.

Motion:

Moved by Tim Ford, seconded by Sandra Anagnostakis that we label the *Nutshells* by the four seasons rather than by months.

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

“Old Business” was concluded and the Board now addressed “New Business”

Revenues: We need to build in a slight surplus for annual meetings to help cover general expenses.

Annual Meeting Report: Jerry Henkin reported that 2015 and 2016 may be in Nebraska and Wisconsin but nothing is final. In 2017 he is checking out Alabama and New York. A discussion followed about locations and attendance. There is usually a higher attendance when the annual meeting is in the central area of the membership.

Improve Ontime Renewals: A renewal notice will be in the Fall issue of the *Nutshell* with an explanation that missed issues resulting from late renewals will only be available online; printed copies will not be mailed. It was agreed to leave two years of back issues in the members section of the web site.

Membership and Annual Meeting Attendance: Bill Sachs will do a financial breakdown of the cost for an online-only membership to encourage new younger members. Greg Miller suggested joint meetings with NAFEX and Permaculture groups. Tim Ford will do a writeup in the Permaculture magazine.

Simplify Membership: Bill Sachs will research how to reduce the number of categories and report to the board.

PayPal: Bill Sachs will check out other alternatives.

Motion:

Moved by Dennis Fulbright, seconded by Greg Miller that all executive and appointed workers find and list an assistant as soon as possible.

Carried.

Troy Pabst expressed concern about misprinted articles in the *Nutshell*. Bill Sachs explained that only a few *Nutshells* were missing a page.

Investments: Jerry Lehman reported on investments. As to the Greater Harrisburg Foundation investments, we have a general fund and a research fund and finding out how we stand is difficult as they use a 5 year averaging report. He recommended that we maintain the general fund but sell

the research fund and reinvest it the New World Fund. He also recommended that we move our funds in the Euro Pacific fund to the New World Fund. He also recommended that we get out of the Canadian Fund.

It was agreed that Jerry Lehman would be the Investment Advisory Chair.

Motion:

Moved by Sandra Anagnostakis, seconded by Tim Ford that we that we sell the research fund in the TFEC Fund at the end of the year and reinvest it in the American Fund Group with Edward Jones.

Carried with one abstention.

Jean Romero-Severson volunteered to be Dennis Fulbright’s assistant editor for the *Annual Report*.

Meeting adjourned to email and conference call mode at 12:37 PM.

Minutes recorded by Sally Martyn,

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Molnar, Secretary

NOTES:

105th Annual Meeting

Individual and Committee Reports

NNGA Library Report

July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

The current balance of the NNGA Library bank account with Apple Bank for Savings is \$1,431.94.

This year, monies were received from the sale of copies of the Index to Annual Reports from 1910 through 1975; the charge for copying services of articles from *The Nutshell* and The NNGA Annual Reports; and from financial donations.

Expenditures include the purchase of new books for the library, NNGA Library stationery, and large mailing envelopes. The largest expenditure, \$544.38, represents the cost of reprinting 25 copies of the NNGA Pioneer collage created by Carl Weschke. The Artisan Photo Reproductions Company in New York City enhanced and enlarged the image to 16" × 20". I will be selling these posters at the NNGA meeting and through the mail to members. The goal is not only to realize a modest profit, but also to popularize the men and women who researched nut culture, and on whose shoulders we stand.

Ninety-five percent of the library's holdings are stored in the bin in my building; the remaining 5% are stored in a large filing cabinet in my apartment. These include a complete set of *Annual Reports*, copies of *The Nutshell*, copies of frequently requested books, and NNGA Library records.

This past year I filled 13 orders from the NNGA Library. I regularly correspond with individuals or organizations regarding nut growing, referrals to experts in the field, and NNGA Library offerings. In addition to filling orders from the United States, the Library sent copies of our literature to Italy and Germany.

I have begun the process of copying VHS recordings of prior NNGA meeting presentations made by Jerry Lehman onto DVDs. The purpose of this endeavor is to insure that the information presented at meetings is made available to future researchers.

I have made a physical inventory of the materials in the NNGA Library, and will add new additions to the web site. I have started to organize the materials in the bin by subject.

My goals for the coming year are as follows:

- coordinate a list of nut related literature with Stephen Sinon, Archivist Librarian of the New York Botanical Garden.
- add articles from newspapers, state nut growing organizations, agroforestry departments of universities, and on-line sources to our folios.
- purchase additional books that would be useful to our members
- coordinate the proofreading of additional NNGA *Annual Reports* with Project Gutenberg.
- coordinate a sharing of information on library holdings and services with the NAFEX library.
- find out which institutions and individuals have a complete set of *Annual Reports* & a library of books on nuts.

- distribute copies of *Annual Reports* and *Nutshells* for membership promotion to state and province organizations, schools, and CSA's.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Henkin
 NNGA Librarian
 501 Riverdale Avenue (4J)
 Yonkers, NY 10705
 USA
 (914) 423-7458

NNGA Research Grant Report 2014

The research grant committee received two grant proposals this year. Both were judged to be worthy of funding. After consultation with the Treasurer and Board of Directors we decided that we had adequate funds to fund them both. Here are the proposals that we are funding this year.

“Nutrients in Chestnuts,” by Sandra Anagnostakis, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (\$2,500 for sample analysis).

Previous work has shown that different pollen parents can differentially affect the protein content and fatty acid content of the kernels that they fertilize. Even though chestnuts are relatively low in fat, the fatty acid profile profoundly affects the flavor of the chestnuts. Sandy will analyze the fatty acid profile and protein content of chestnuts derived from an array of hand pollinations between various species and hybrids of chestnuts.

“Assessing diversity of blight resistance genes in Chinese chestnut (*Castanea mollissima* Blume) by whole-genome resequencing of a diverse germplasm collection,” by Nicholas R. LaBonte and Keith E. Woeste, Purdue University Hardwood Tree Improvement Center (\$5,000).

Nick will sequence the genome of at least 20 carefully selected Chinese chestnut trees and some hybrids. The candidates have been chosen based on their various degrees of chestnut blight resistance. Considering that various sets of trees come from similar genetic backgrounds, but vary in blight resistance, he will look for regions of the genome that seem to be associated with blight resistance. Such results will be valuable in chestnut breeding programs.

The NNGA is fortunate to have both donors and researchers that facilitate these kinds of research that are so important for nut growing.

Greg Miller

Secretary’s Report

To: Bill Sachs, Treasurer
 From: Tom Molnar, Secretary
 Cc: NNGA Board
 Re: Secretary’s expenses for 1 July, 2013 to 30 June, 2014
 Date: 10 August, 2014

Expenses incurred on NNGA credit card

<u>Item</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Mailing USPS and office supplies.....	\$99.46

Note: No other expenses were incurred as Secretary over the past year.

Total Secretary Expenditures: \$99.46

Some Secretary activities for this past year included, but are not limited to:

- sending welcome letters and back-issues of the Nutshell to new NNGA members and those that renewed late in the year;
- email correspondence with NNGA members, people interested in the organization, or the general public with specific nut related questions. Secretary Emeritus Tucker Hill must be thanked here for his excellent help responding to questions from the public (and NNGA members).
- mailing NNGA information to those who inquire, including brochures and back issues of Nutshell;
- Submitting minutes of the NNGA Board meeting and Business meeting and assisting in obtaining committee reports for the Stakeholders Report;
- assisting in website related content/link sharing/etc.;
- Compiling NNGA Board email business;
- contributing to Nutshell and Annual Report by submitting articles and soliciting articles of value and interest from others;
- promoting the NNGA and the value of its membership to potential members.

Annual Sales and Shipping Report

October 1, 2013 to August 1, 2014

Book sales for the year are summarized in the table below. Books were shipped to 16 U.S. states and one to Ontario, Canada. (5 to WI, 2 each to WA, OR and IA, and 1 each to CA, CT, KY, IN, OK, OH, ME, MI, NY, TN, TX, and W.VA.) Sales were down from 2012.

	Number Mailed	Inventory Remaining
A Guide	20	668
Hazels	6	1389
Cookbooks	0	105

Mailing costs increased to \$3.65 for the Guide and \$2.53 for the Hazel books. The Post Office has scheduled another increase for fall, 2014, but it is uncertain if Media Mail will be included.

No cookbooks were sold this past year. The unit cost of printing the cookbook was \$6.86. I offer these two suggestions to be considered

for moving the cookbooks as sales have been very slow for two years:

1. Purchase a Guide or Hazel book and buy the cookbook for half price (\$10.00). Two books can be bundled together and mailed for \$3.65 until the next postage increase. If and when Vol. 2 of the Guide is expected to be bundled for sale with Vol. 1 in the future, Hazl may be the book of choice to go with the cookbook as there are over 1,000 Hazel books to sell.
2. Purchase the cookbook for 25% off with the purchase of an NNGA Logo tee shirt of any size or color. The cookbook would be \$15.00 and the tee shirt remain \$20.00. Both purchases could be mailed together.
3. The Board can come up with an interesting idea for selling the cookbooks.

Nutwear Inventory. Thirty-one Logo tee shirts (18 green, 13 burgundy), 6 caps, 6 hat bands, and 4 Aussie hats remain in inventory.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Powell

105th Business Meeting Minutes

Northern Nut Growers Association, Inc.
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
Monday, 11 August 2014

Monday, 11 August, 2014

President Dennis Fulbright called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM and shared the history of the gavel.

Minutes of the 104th Annual Business Meeting

Motion:

Moved by Sandy Anagnostakis, seconded by Ron Powell that the 104th Annual Business Meeting minutes be accepted as published in the *2013 Stakeholders' Report* on the website

Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Sachs presented the report in Power Point using materials outlining Membership, Research Funds, Assets, Income, Expenses, Investments, and comparison graphs for Operating Income and Operating Surplus/Deficit, and Membership. He thanked Mari Stehli, who prepared the tax return at a lower cost to NNGA. Membership dropped from 519 in 2013 to 427 in 2014. We need 525 dues paying members to balance the budget but only have 244 dues paying members. 55 new members joined this year. We operated with a \$50 surplus this past year after three years of a deficit. NNGA's total assets are \$350,429 which is up 17%. Bill reported that there is \$156.00 in monies available for the Research Grants this year prior to the auction but that has the authority to liquidate up to \$10,000 in funds if more is needed.

Motion:

Moved by Jerry Lehman and seconded by Bill Nash that the treasurer's report be accepted,

Carried.

Editor's Report

Dennis Fulbright explained the new format and noted that he was acting editor but that Bill Sachs was doing all the work. Dennis announced that we have a new layout editor in the wings at \$500 per issue. Issue four (December) will be photos only with captions and available only on the web site. All were encouraged to send in photos. All speakers at this meeting need to give Dennis a written report whether in scientific form or as a summary story to be printed in the *Annual Report*.

Nominating Committee Report

Tim Ford reported on the proposed nominations from the committee for all officers and a director. The slate of officers and directors presented by the Nominating Committee and published in the June *Nutshell* is:

President	Bob Stehli
Vice-President	Tim Ford
Secretary	Tom Molnar
Treasurer	Bill Sachs
Director until 2017	Sandra Anagnostakis

The floor was opened for further nominations. Two directors will be elected with three year terms and one director with a two year term to fill Tim Ford's unexpired term as director. It was noted that Greg Miller and Shawn Melanbacher are willing to serve as directors. The election will continue at the banquet.

Nomination Committee Elections

Tim Ford asked for nominations for the two positions vacant on the nominating committee for 3 year terms. Nathan Crocker and Jerry Henkin agreed to serve.

The nominating committee consists of: Linda Grimo and Tucker Hill till 2016, Nathan Crocker and Jerry Henkin till 2017.

Motion:

Moved by Dennis Fulbright, seconded by Sarah Peters that nominations for the Nominating Committee be closed.

Carried.

The nominees were elected to the Nominating Committee by acclamation. Nominating Committee membership for 2014 – 2015 is as follows:

Committee Member	Term Expires
Tim Ford	2015
Bill Nash	2015
Linda Grimo	2016
Tucker Hill	2016
Nathan Crocker	2017
Jerry Henkin	2017

Auction Co-ordinator

Dennis Fulbright asked Linda Grimo to be auction co-ordinator and she accepted.

Business meeting recessed until the NNGA Banquet, 13 August 2014.

Business meeting reconvened at the NNGA Banquet, 13 August 2014.

Guest Speaker

Amigo Cantisano spoke to us on Felix Gillet and his pioneering work in nut trees and how he is finding and propagating from these trees.

Annual Elections

Tim Ford, chairman of the nominating committee ran the elections naming those proposed for each position by the Nominating Committee and opening the floor for further nominations.

President

Bob Stehli was nominated for President and agreed to serve if elected. There were no other nominees.

Motion:

Jerry Lehman moved that nominations for President be closed, seconded by Jerry Henkin

Carried.

Vice President

Tim Ford was nominated for Vice President. and agreed to serve if elected. There were no other nominees.

Motion:

Dennis Fulbright moved that nominations for Vice-President be closed, seconded by Roger Blackwell

Carried.

Secretary

Tom Molnar was nominated for Secretary and agreed to serve if elected. There were no other nominees.

Motion:

Troy Pabst moved that nominations for Secretary be closed, seconded by Shawn Mehlenbacher.

Carried.

Treasurer

Bill Sachs was nominated for Treasurer and agreed to serve if elected. There were no other nominees.

Motion:

Jerry Lehman moved that nominations

for Treasurer be closed, seconded by Dennis Fulbright.

Carried.

Director until 2016

Sandra Anagnostakis was nominated to fill Tim Ford's unexpired term. There were no other nominees.

Director until 2017

Shawn Mehlenbacher and Greg Miller were nominated for three year terms and agreed to serve if elected. There were no other nominees.

Motion:

Moved by Troy Pabst and seconded by Rodney Hart that nominations be closed.

Carried.

No election was needed and the nominated officers and directors were declared elected. The slate of officers and directors elected was:

President	Bob Stehli
Vice-President	Tim Ford
Secretary	Tom Molnar
Treasurer	Bill Sachs
Director until 2016	Sandra Anagnostakis
Directors until 2017	Shawn Mehlenbacher Greg Miller

Research Grant Report

Greg Miller reported that two grants were being awarded for a total of \$7,500. The grants were awarded to Sandra Anagnostakis for research into the effect of pollen parents on fatty acids in chestnut kernels" (\$2,500) and to Nick LaBonté for research on the diversity of blight resistance in Chinese chestnut (*Castanea mollissima* Blume) by whole-genome resequencing of a diverse germplasm collection (\$5,000). Details of the awards can be found in the Committee's report in *Individual and Committee Reports* on page 14.

Awards

Greg Miller also presented the 2014 NNGA awards. As immediate past president, Greg chairs the Awards committee whose members include Alan Van Antwerp, Sandy Anagnostakis, Jerry Henkin, Bob Stehli, and Tucker Hill.

Merit Award: to Shawn Mehlenbacher for all his research and work with breeding blight resistant filbert cultivars.

Service Award: to Linda Grimo for all her work for the organization such as helping with auctions, presentations, etc.

Big Nut

Charles Novagradac and Deborah Milks, outgoing co-Big Nuts, crowned Michele Warmund Big Nut for 2014/2015.

Roll Call of States and Countries

An energetic roll call of states was read by Bill Nash and Roger Blackwell.

Auction Report

Bill Sachs announced that we made \$2,529.00 for research through the auction this year.

Other business

Dennis Fulbright thanked Shawn Mehlenbacher and his assistants for all their hard work making this a great meeting. He also announced that the 106th Annual Meeting would be held in Wisconsin in 2015.

Adjournment

Tim Ford thanked Dennis for all his hard work and leadership. He declared the meeting adjourned and Iris Ford (his daughter) banged the gavel.

Minutes recorded by Sally Martyn.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Molnar, Secretary

CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTHERN NUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

As amended 1 August, 2005 and 13 August, 2007

NAME

Article 1. The name of the corporation is **the Northern Nut Growers Association, Incorporated**, hereinafter referred to as the “Association.” The Association is incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the provisions of the District of Columbia Non-Profit Corporation Act.

PURPOSES

Article 2. The purposes of the Association shall be to promote interest in the nut bearing plants; scientific research in their breeding and culture; standardization of cultivar names; the dissemination of information concerning the above and such other purposes as may advance the culture of nut bearing plants, particularly in the North Temperate Zone.

MEMBERS

Article 3. Membership in the Association shall be open to all persons interested in supporting the purposes of the Association. Classes of members are as follows: Individual members, Family members, Contributing members, Sustaining members, Life members, and Honorary members. Applications for membership in the Association shall be presented to the Secretary, the Treasurer, or the Membership Director, accompanied by the required dues.

ELECTED OFFICERS

Article 4. The elected officers of this Association shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Article 5. The Board of Directors shall consist of eleven members of the Association: the four elected officers of the Association, the preceding elected president of the Association, and six members elected at large. If the preceding elected president is unable to serve, her or his elected predecessor shall serve on the Board of Directors.

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Article 6. The Editor of the *Annual Report of the Northern Nut Growers Association*, the Editor of *The Nutshell*, the Membership Director, the Librarian, the Cultivar Inventory Coordinator, the Sales Coordinator and the Annual Meeting Coordinator (when needed) shall be appointees.

PROVISIONS FOR NON-PROFIT INCORPORATION

Article 7. Said Association is organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code which is defined as associations organized for charitable, religious, educational and/or scientific purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

NON-COMPENSATION

Article 8. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, members of the Board of Directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any provision of this document, the Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

DISSOLUTION

Article 9. Upon the dissolution of the Association, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code or shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state or local government for public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Article 10. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at any annual meeting, notice of such amendment having been read at the previous annual meeting, or copy of the proposed amendments having been mailed by the Secretary, or by any member to each member thirty days before the date of the annual meeting.

BYLAWS OF THE NORTHERN NUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

As amended 1 August, 2005, 13 August, 2007, 12 August, 2008 and 19 July, 2010

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP

Article 1. Individual Member. The Individual member shall be any person interested in the purposes of the Northern Nut Growers Association who pays annual dues. The Individual member shall be a full voting member of the Association and receive a copy of the Association's annual report and newsletter. Annual dues for the Individual member shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Article 2. Family Members. Family members shall be any two members of a household who are interested in the purposes of the Northern Nut Growers Association and who pay annual dues. Both Family members shall be full voting members of the Association. A single copy of the Association's annual report and newsletter shall be sent to Family members. Annual dues for Family membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors and shall be no less than \$5.00 more than the annual dues of the Individual member.

Article 3. Contributing Member. The Contributing member shall be any person interested in the purposes of the Northern Nut Growers Association and who wishes to provide additional financial support to further the activities of the Association. The Contributing member shall be a full voting member of the Association and receive a copy of the Association's annual report and newsletter. Annual dues for Contributing membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors and shall be not less than \$10.00 more than the annual dues of the Individual member.

Article 4. Sustaining Member. The Sustaining member shall be any person interested in the purposes of the Northern Nut Growers Association and who wishes to provide additional financial support to further the activities of the Association. The Sustaining member shall be a full voting member of the Association and receive a copy of the Association's annual report and newsletter. Annual dues for Sustaining membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors and shall be not less than \$20.00 more than the annual dues of the Individual member.

Article 5. Life Member. The Life member shall be any person interested in the purposes of the Northern Nut Growers Association and who purchases a lifetime membership in the Association. Life members may purchase at the basic, bronze, silver or gold level and may upgrade to a higher level at any time they choose to financially assist the association. After purchasing lifetime membership, the Life member shall pay no annual dues. The cost of lifetime membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The Life member shall be a full voting member of the Association and receive a copy of the Association's annual report and newsletter.

Article 6. Honorary Member. The Association may elect any person an Honorary member in recognition of their achievements and contributions to the Association. The Honorary members shall be a full voting member of the Association and receive a copy of the Association's annual report and newsletter. The Honorary member shall pay no annual dues.

SECTION 2. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Article 1. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and Board of Directors, and may call meetings of the Board of Directors when he or she believes it to be in the best interests of the Association. The President shall appoint a recorder for the Director's and Annual Meetings. The President shall appoint the standing committees, except the Nominating committee and the Awards Committee; such special committees as the Association may authorize, and the Editor of *The Nutshell*. The President shall keep the Vice President fully informed of her or his activities so that the Vice President could assume the duties of the President if necessary.

The President shall investigate the status of any possibly inactive officer, director, or appointed position and shall report the findings to the Board of Directors for consideration of agreement on any positions found to be apparently vacant. He or she shall appoint members to temporarily fill the vacancies when deemed advisable and reasonably possible, and shall report the officer and director vacancies to the chair of the Nominating Committee so they can present candidates for the next election.

Article 2. Vice President. The Vice President shall do all in her or his power to gain as much knowledge of the Association as possible and to prepare herself or himself for the presidency. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President.

Article 3. Secretary. The Secretary shall be the active executive officer of the Association. He or she shall conduct the correspondence relating to the Association's interests, assist in obtaining memberships, actively forward the interests of the Association, report her or his yearly Association activities at Annual Meeting and provide special reports to the meetings of the Board of Directors as they may request.

Article 4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and record memberships, receive and account for all moneys of the Association, and shall pay all bills approved by the President or the Secretary. He or she shall give such security as the Board of Directors may require or may legally be required, shall invest life memberships or other funds as the Board of Directors may direct--subject to the legal restrictions and in accordance with the law, and shall submit a verified account of receipts and disbursements to the Annual Meeting and such current accounts as the Board of Directors may from time to time require. Before the final business session of the Annual Meeting of the Association, the accounts of the Treasurer shall be submitted for examination to the Auditing committee.

SECTION 3. DUTIES OF DIRECTORS

Article 1. Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall manage the affairs of the association during and between meetings. One member of the Board of Directors shall be responsible for coordinating solicitation of donations. One member of the Board of Directors shall head a committee to advise the Treasurer on investment of the Association's funds. For a Board of Directors meeting, four members, including at least two elected officers, shall be considered a quorum.

SECTION 4. DUTIES OF APPOINTEES

Article 1. Committee Chairpersons. Each Committee Chairperson shall generate an annual report presenting the committee's goals and objectives and a summary of the committee's achievements. Said report to be submitted to the Secretary who will secure its publication for the membership.

Article 2. Cultivar Inventory Chairpersons. Each Cultivar Inventory Chairperson shall develop and maintain a database of cultivar information for the assigned species or genus. An up-to-date copy of the database will be provided to the Cultivar Inventory Coordinator at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting.

Article 3. Cultivar Inventory Coordinator. The Cultivar Inventory Coordinator shall maintain a master copy of all Cultivar Inventory data generated by the Cultivar Inventory Committees and make it available at each Annual Meeting or as the Association may direct.

Article 4. Editor of the *Annual Report of the N. N. G. A.* The Editor of the *Annual Report* shall edit and publish a report each year for the educational benefit of members of the Association. The Editor shall solicit, collect, and edit manuscripts concerning the culture of nut crops for publication in the *Annual Report*. The Editor will consider all papers presented at the Annual Meeting for inclusion in the *Annual Report*.

Article 5. Editor of *The Nutshell*. The Editor of *The Nutshell*, the Association's newsletter, shall edit and publish such educational information as will further the purposes of the Association. The editor of *The Nutshell* shall edit and publish news of the Association and business of the Association as an *Annual Stakeholders Report*. The Board of Directors shall approve the frequency of publication of the newsletter.

Article 6. Librarian. The Librarian shall acquire, preserve, organize, and distribute informational material deemed either of historic or of practical value to the Association, including backup copies of minutes, policies, and other documents that are important to the continuity of the Association.

Article 7. Membership Director. The Membership Director shall assist the Treasurer and the Secretary in matters related to services to members.

Article 8. Sales Coordinator. The Sales Coordinator shall assist the Treasurer in matters related to sales of NNGA books and other items.

Article 9. Annual Meeting Coordinator. The Annual Meeting Coordinator shall oversee the development of each annual meeting.

Article 10. Diligence of Appointees. Appointees shall be diligent in performing their respective duties and should make every effort to be available to the Board of Directors at meetings. Any appointee who finds herself or himself unable to perform her or his duties shall promptly notify the President.

SECTION 5. ELECTIONS

Article 1. Terms. The Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and hold office for one year beginning immediately following the close of the Annual Meeting. The at-large members of the Board of Directors shall hold office for three years beginning immediately following the close of the Annual Meeting at which each is elected. The Association shall elect two at-large members to the Board of Directors annually one of which will be placed in nomination by the Nominating Committee and one will be placed in nomination by the membership at large.

Article 2. Nominations. The Nominating committee consists of six members elected by the Association. Each member of the Nominating Committee shall serve a three-year term. The Association shall elect two new members to the committee each year to replace retiring members. At the first session of the Business Meeting each year nominations for these members will come from the floor. The election of the new members of the Nominating committee will take place at the conclusion of this first session of the Business Meeting.

The Nominating committee shall also present a slate of officers and one director at the first session of the Business Meeting. The election of officers and directors shall take place at the closing session of the Business Meeting at the Banquet. Nominations for any office may be presented from the floor at the time the slate is presented at the first session of the Business Meeting or immediately preceding the election at the Banquet. The slate shall be submitted to the Editor of *The Nutshell* by 1 May for inclusion in the June issue.

Article 3. A quorum at a regularly called Annual Meeting shall be fifteen members and must include at least two of the elected officers.

Article 4. All full voting members shall be eligible to vote and hold office.

SECTION 6. FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Article 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Association shall extend from 1 October through the following 30 September. All annual memberships shall begin 1 January.

Article 2. Delinquent Members. All dues-paying members whose dues have not been paid by 1 January shall be delinquent members. Notices of non-payment of dues shall be mailed to delinquent members on or about 1 March by the Membership Director. The names of all delinquent members shall be dropped from the rolls of the Association on 1 April.

Article 3. Benefits. The *Annual Report of the N.N.G.A.* and *The Nutshell* shall be sent to only full voting members for the current year. Members who are delinquent on 1 April will not be entitled to receive the Association publications or other benefits of the Association until dues are paid.

Article 4. Life Membership Funds. Life membership contributions at the basic level will be placed in the investment fund. All additional Life Membership funds above the basic level will be placed in the general fund of the Association.

SECTION 7. MEETINGS

Article 1. Annual Meeting. The Association shall hold an annual meeting for the educational benefit of its members and for the purpose of conducting the business of the Association. The Annual Meeting shall be open to the general public and attendance by non-members shall be encouraged.

Article 2. Meeting Site Committee. The location and date for the Annual Meeting shall be chosen by the Board of Directors upon advisement by the Meeting Site Committee. Meeting locations and dates should be determined no less than three years in advance.

SECTION 8. PUBLICATIONS

Article 1. Annual Report and The Nutshell. The Association shall publish an *Annual Report* each fiscal year, a periodic newsletter called *The Nutshell*, and such other publications with formats and publication schedules as authorized by the Board of Directors.

Article 2. Responsibility. All NNGA publications shall be the responsibility of the Publications committee.

SECTION 9. AWARDS

Article 1. Merit and Service. The Association may provide suitable awards for outstanding contributions to the cultivation of nut-bearing plants, suitable recognition for meritorious exhibits, and suitable recognition for service to the Association as may be appropriate. The Awards Committee shall be chaired by the most recent past president, who will appoint three additional past presidents or officers to serve as members.

Article 2. Honorary Members. The Awards Committee shall recommend members for Honorary membership and shall also recommend members for the highest honorary membership, Dean of the NNGA. These recommendations should be voted-on by the membership at the annual meeting.

Article 3. Big Nut. The Big Nut is to be perpetuated by the current Big Nut whose honor and sole privilege it is to crown her or his successor at the Annual Banquet. The Big Nut reigns for one year and may be seen wearing the Big Nut crown and necklace at any Annual Meeting event but in particular at the Annual Banquet. Should the Big Nut die in office, the previous Big Nut will name a second successor.

SECTION 10. COMMITTEES

Article 1. Standing Committees. As soon as practical after the Annual Meeting of the Association, the President shall appoint the following standing committees: Auction and Exhibits, Auditing, Evaluation of Research Proposals, Investment Advisory, Local Arrangements, Meeting Site, Meeting Speakers, New Member Host, and Publications. The President shall also appoint a Cultivar Inventory Committee for each genus or species of nut bearing plant that the Association may direct. The President may delegate the appointment of the Cultivar Inventory Committees to the Cultivar Inventory Coordinator.

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