

Cherokee County Master Gardeners

Regular Meeting- February 15, 2005 - Bridge Mill Community Center

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2005. The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. Members present were President Jean Garner, Immediate Past President Mary Ellen Roos, President-elect Betty Hood, Secretary Joan McFather, Treasurer Pam Raines, Lois Andresen, Pat Bowen, Russell Brannon, Jean Collins, Thomas Dorn, Karen Garland, Mary Hughes, Vickie Lindsey, Merrily McLaughlin, Debbie Meadows, Carol Mumaw, Janet Newman, Linda Robbins, Roxanne Rutledge, Jane Shelnut, Gerry Skalsky, Mary Ann Szostak, Glenda Thompson, Mary Tucker, Marcia Winchester, and Margit Woods.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Jean welcomed everyone and introduced lifetime member Gerry Skalsky. She thanked the telephone buddies and chairmen for the coming year. The membership is asked to consider the Christmas party now, rather than later; if anyone is interested in hosting it, please contact Jean. There will be additional training sessions so that everyone can get comfortable with our website. Jean, Betty Adams, Pam Raines, and Judie Bicknell attended as a representation of the Master Gardeners for a Valentine Luncheon hosted by the Senior Center, to thank those that help them throughout the year. She asked Mary Ellen to report on the State Winter Conference, celebrating the Master Gardener Program's 25th anniversary, held in January. Eighteen members attended, and 6 went to Massey Gardens in nearby Fort Valley.

The dinner was excellent, and the seminars were worthwhile. Jean encouraged everyone to turn in log sheets EVERY MONTH, it is much easier to stay on top of their hours that way.

President-elect Betty noted a typo on the meeting schedule: October 20 should be October 18. Our March meeting date has an added activity: Redbud Nursery is offering another hands-on afternoon, hanging baskets. The nursery will provide all the materials, containers, and tools for only \$12.50 per basket. You can make more than one. Mrs. Long will hold them in her greenhouse until they mature and the weather warms. Times for the March 15 activities are: 4 p.m. at Redbud, 6:30 p.m. for a tour of the Senior Center, 7 p.m. for the regular meeting. Finger foods and door prizes are needed: contact Betty. Don't forget that there is a box at the extension office for donated door prizes. Todd is working on a multi-county picnic for us and our families. Save the date of May 15 (Sunday at 1 PM) at Poole's Mill in Forsyth County. We will still have our regularly scheduled meeting on 17 May at Bridge Mill.

Secretary Joan wrote a thank you letter to Wood-Tech for Senior Center mulch. Mary Ann Szostak moved and Linda Robbins seconded approval of the January minutes; the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Pam reported a checking balance of \$8718.37 and Pikes receipts of \$29.04. She reminded us that we should send her \$5.00 to continue receiving mailed copies of the newsletter. Pam then presented and moved to approve the 2005 budget. It passed unanimously.

Applying for a 501c3 (nonprofit tax status) was discussed. While it is a laborious process, it would be worth looking into because we continue to sell things.

In Extension Agent Todd Hurt's absence, Jean reported that intern Billie McIver has already completed her 50 hours. Congratulations to Billie! (And to her mentor, Vickie Lindsey—that would explain it!)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reinhardt: In Elizabeth Smith's absence, Jean reported that a tentative schedule of programs for March 1 – May 24 is on the way. Elizabeth could use more supervisory volunteers. Martha Hout, at the Funk Heritage Center, has set up a training session on April 2 from 9 to 12 noon on how to lead children's classes.

Senior Center: Marcia Winchester announced next Thursday's workday start at 9:30 unless it is too cold; then it will be 1:00 p. m. Work includes propagation and mulching in front. On the March 3rd workday, come at 9:30; then at 10 Merrily McLaughlin will demonstrate pruning (great opportunity to get slips for new plants). More propagation, and if vegetables are your interest—see Becky Griffin in the veggie bed. Marcia asked Russell Brannon to report on a new potting bench which he had been intending to build. Home Depot has offered to build it for us, and Russell has taken them the plans!

Plant Sale: The sale will be March 19 at Autumn Hill (there is also a tree sale scheduled for March 5-6). Marcia will need help on Thursday's workday pulling plants. On Friday you can help set up the sale items (and get "first dibs" on them). The Saturday volunteers need to be ready at 8 a.m. when the sale opens. Saturday evening volunteers are needed to return unsold materials to the Senior Center.

Newsletter: Please continue to supply Marcia with "Cool Tools" and "My Favorite Plant" articles as well as any other articles you may want to write.

2005 Seminars: Mary Ellen Roos announced that the schedule is available and thanked the publicity committee for their efforts: there are 30+ people signed up for the rose's seminar on February 19. Roxanne Rutledge thanked everyone for their help and praised presenters for involving the interns. She noted that Hickory Flat Library has been very supportive by moving our sign out to the front. Even more classes are being offered at the Senior Center. It was suggested we have a permanent sign there as well. We will also be purchasing a second computer for use with seminars, and Roxanne will organize an instructional class for its use. Remember that even as Master Gardeners must register to attend these seminars. Now with larger groups attending these seminars, it is crucial that the presenters know how many handouts and other info they need to provide, not to mention seating!

Publicity: Carol Mumaw announced that the committee has ten publications to submit to—more would be welcome. They want help in distributing the 500 book marks advertising the seminars to garden clubs or any other interested organization. The committee is also seeking contacts in garden clubs, subdivision newsletters, welcome agencies.... Please let Carol know any resources you have for distributing information.

Note: All book marks have now been spoken for and the publicity committee hopes to double the amount next year.

Care and Share: Glenda Thompson reported that the committee has sent cards and meals to Susan Cox and Mary Hughes and card to others. She circulated a membership roster, asking those to star their names, if willing to cook and deliver meals. A motion to include the immediate staff at the extension office to become part of our list of eligible care recipients, was made by Mary Ellen Roos, seconded by Pam Raines, and passed unanimously.

Farmers' Market: Jean, Betty, Todd, Pat Bowen, Susan Franklin and Lynn Knotts all met to discuss this years goals for the Farmers' Market. Pat announced that the Farmers' Market will operate from May 21 till Labor Day at Cagle's Dairy. Hours will remain 8 a.m. to noon, with shifts from 8-10 and 10-12. MGs will have a table where we can distribute information. All are encouraged to be vendors and seek other vendors or customers for the Market. There will no longer be vendor fees.

Calendar: There will be a meeting of those interested in a 2006 calendar. It will be at the extension office on February 25 at 10 a.m. Please come and join us with your ideas.

Georgia Gold Medal Winners: Gerry Slaughter attended a January meeting concerning the booth at the Southeastern Flower Show and needs volunteers in the booth Wednesday through Sunday. If you volunteer, admission to the show is free; otherwise admission is \$18, though there is a \$2 coupon available on line. Volunteers see Gerry for instruction handouts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Volunteer Council on Aging:** The project is going well and Cindy Foster will be our representative at the Auction on March 5th. She will also insure we have pictures from this event.
- **Advanced Master Gardener Class** is scheduled for May 12 through North Metro Tech. Russell says 25 Cherokee County MGs have registered. Please be aware that if you are not a member of GMGA the cost is an additional \$15.
- **Arbor Day** will be Friday, Feb. 18, rain or shine at the Canton gazebo. Vickie has all three shifts filled with volunteers who will assist Todd with distributing the same five types of trees we used last year and answering questions. These trees are free to the public; we will not be assisting with the tree sales that will also be available.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Landscape Design Class:** Thomas Dorn announced that the class will be held at the Senior Center during the month of March (17, 22, 24 &, 29th). It will be limited to 25 couples 15 from the community (\$35) and 10 MGs (\$25***). But MGs will need to help Thomas as needed, such as setting up tables or other odd jobs). Materials will be provided. Register at the extension office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Possible Road Trip(s):** Marcia has suggested we look into the free Wednesday Lunch and Learn programs offered at Georgia Perimeter College in DeKalb County. To see the schedule of programs, go to www.gpc.edu, then type native plant botanical garden in the search box at the very top of the page, then click on the first offering in the list that appears. Marcia says a typical session includes a 10 a.m. walk in the garden followed by a lecture while eating a brown bag lunch. Contact Marcia Winchester if you are interested in going.
- **Weed 'n' Feed** is a new group forming to help one another weed their yards. Contact Glenda Thompson for details. There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

PROGRAM Jack Driskell of Powder Springs, a long time member and officer of many gardening organizations in the state, gave a program on gardening in the shade. His talk ranged from hostas and hydrangeas to more exotic plants which can be added to the landscape to brighten even the deepest shade. His slides illustrated the plants, showing gardens in all seasons, and he distributed the slide list, "Shady Characters Can Make a Friendly Garden," of almost 100 plant varieties. It was a wonderful presentation!

BIRTHDAYS

March: Sharee Riggs 5, Helen Ogren 8, Marcia Winchester 9, Mary Hughes 16, Debbie McCollum 19

EVENTS CALENDAR

February 17 – Senior Center workday

February 19 – Seminar: Roses at Hickory Flat Library: 10 a.m.

February 24 – Last chance for Pickens County plant sale orders

February 26 – Seminar: Pruning at Hickory Flat Library: 10 a.m.

March 1 - Funk Heritage Center (Nature Trail) program begins: (March 1 – May 24)

March 2-6 Southeastern Flower Show

March 3 – Senior Center workday

March 5 – Volunteer Council on Aging Annual Auction

March 5-6 - Tree Sale at Autumn Hill Nursery

March 15 – Create Hanging baskets at Redbud Nursery/ 4 p.m.

March 15 – CCMG meeting at Senior Center: 7 p.m. Walk through gardens: 6:30

March 17 – Senior Center workday

March 17 – Landscape Design Workshop at Senior Center (17, 22, 24, 29 March)

March 19 – Seminar: Lawns in Georgia at Hickory Flat Library: 10 a.m.

March 19 – Seminar: Organic Gardening at Senior Center: 10 a.m.

March 19 – Plant Sale at Autumn Hill: 8a.m.

May 12 – Advanced MG class on digital photography

May 15 – MG county picnic at Poole's Mill in Forsyth County

May 21 – Farmers' Market begins

ATTACHMENT – email from Thomas Dorn with details of Landscape Design class

Below are the relevant details for the March Landscape Design Workshop. It was a tremendous success last year and when Todd was unable to do it again this year; I was delighted to take it over. We are tentatively planning to offer it again later this summer (dates not set yet). One of the main differences is that we will be limiting slots for MGs to 10 couples of the 25 total. These will be filled on a first come basis and there will then be a waiting list in case the other 15 slots aren't filled. The cost will be \$25 per couple for MGs (\$35 for the public at large) and those who do attend will be required to help a bit with physical logistical matters such as setting up and breaking down the tables and chairs, etc.; in other words, it won't be too demanding! Also, if you know of anyone in the community who would be interested, please pass on the info. Judy has flyers which she can send out to them.

Call Judy at the office to register at 770-479-0418 (this is required).

Spring 2005 Landscape Design Workshop

March 17, (6:00pm) March 22, 24 & 29, (6:30-8:30pm)

No prior experience required. A four evening hands-on workshop, sponsored by the Cherokee Co. Master Gardeners & Cherokee Co. Extension Service,

which will teach you many of the fundamentals of landscape design. It will be held at the Cherokee Senior Center located at 1001 Univeter Road, Canton.

You will produce a scale design for a chosen area of your property which needs work; the design will be critiqued the final evening with helpful suggestions by a panel of landscape design experts. During the four evenings the following topics will be presented by fellow Master Gardeners:

- Preparing your soil for successful planting by Thomas Dorn
- Principles of a good landscape design & How to draw a scale plan of your property by Beth Ochsner-Child
- Hardscaping by Frank Weltz
- Selecting trees by Jennifer Resuta
- Shrubs by Susan Franklin
- Annuals and Perennials by Marianna Jackson & Gerry Slaughter
- Turf by Thomas Dorn
- Plant identification

The panel of landscape professionals will likely be (I still have to get confirmations from a couple of the following): Ed Hornyak (Ret. Bartow, Extension Agent); Eric & Cari Hill (Autumn Hill Nursery); Jennifer Resuta (For Heavens Scapes); Charles Green (TLC Landscapes); Jim Stetson (Inside Out Landscape Design); Greg Mincey (JAM Landscape). The Workshop is limited to 25 couples. Each couple will be provided with one set of various informational pamphlets; large tracing paper for your design; scale design template. Thanks! If you have any questions, give me a call (770-924-9688) or email me.

Thomas Dorn