

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners
Regular Monthly Meeting
Cherokee County Senior Center
January 17, 2012**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. At 10:02 a.m. the meeting was called to order by President Ed Stumler. Members also present were Vice President Clara Mae Van Brink, Secretary Joan McFather, Treasurer Diane Walton, Betty Adams, Sue Allen, Judie Bicknell, Monte Bores, Pat Bowen, Russell Brannen, Marvin Colston, Linda Connelly, Tom Connolly, Mark Dady, Christy Davis, Sandra Ferguson, Nancy Green, Megan Hilf-Reilly, Carol Jackson, Elizabeth Kelly, Donald Krueger, Shirley Lowe, Susan Morris, Carol Mumaw, Gerald Phillips, Pam Raines, Linda Robbins, Gail Roos, Mary Ellen Roos, Steve Scott, Jane Shelnett, Gerry Slaughter, Diane Smith, Mary Ann Szostak, Suzie Thomas, Katie Van Hiel, Sherry Wileman, and Marcia Winchester.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Ed Stumler welcomed everyone, stressed the need to begin and end meetings on time, mentioned that Roberts Rules of Order can be accessed on line and hoped that we would have more participation from members not in attendance.

Secretary Joan McFather asked for and received approval of the November 2011 minutes as posted on line. She wrote no correspondence, but read aloud a thank you card from the Stewart family, recipients of the more than \$300 they received from the Cherokee Master Gardeners through gift cards purchased for the Thanksgiving party and submitted to Everyday Angels. She read portions of an article appearing in *Around Town: Towne Lake* that spotlighted the Stewart family and, in particular, daughter Sydney. The once A student and cheerleader had developed cancer, the treatment for which had brought devastating changes to her body and lifestyle.

Treasurer:

- Diane Walton reminded everyone that she would be submitting the monthly financial report to everyone via email. According to that report, Cash on hand as of November 1, 2011, was \$8111.13. Deposits in October: \$36.00, expenses in November: \$3052.49, debit to money market account: \$100.00, leaving a November 1 balance in the operating account of \$4994.64. The money market account balance is \$1000.61. This report shows "Total Cash Available as \$5995.25," the difference being an approximate \$1000 transfer from the reserve fund to pay for pouring a new slab at the Senior Center. As of this meeting, we have \$4,939.08 going forward. [See secretary's book for entire report.]
- Diane reminded the group to be thinking of new revenue sources. Our principal income provider is the plant sales, but these may be curtailed due to the renovation of the Senior Center. If we spend this year's budget as allocated, we will have no money in 2013.
- Russell Brannon moved and Gerald Phillips seconded the acceptance of the budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
- Diane will email everyone asking about long-handled Cobras. When she has enough interest, she will order more.
- Diane asked everyone to turn in receipts needing reimbursement immediately. Do not wait until the end of the year. You may send them to her or scan and email (waltond@bellsouth.net).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Burgess Arboretum: Russell Brannon reported that he will be meeting with Zach White on January 21 to set up a docent training date prior to the GMGA conference. Email Russell if you want to participate (rlbsjb@windstream.net).

Care & Share: Mary Selden (seldrum1@comcast.net) and Dalia Lowe (ealowe@aol.com) will co-chair this committee, but because they both work they will be unable to attend meetings. Ed asked that we email our concerns directly to them. Updates include:

- Debbie Califano's new grandson. Cards would be appreciated. Debbie's son-in-law has developed major health issues, and she has temporarily moved to be near the family. Clara Mae has the Caringbridge address.
- Mary Hughes is in assisted living. Cards should be directed to her at 4450 Old Hamilton Mill Road, Room 132, Buford GA 30518, phone: 770-831-1904.
- Glenda Thompson is scheduled for an MRI concerning the infection she developed after her previous hospital stay.
- Nell Gillespie is recovering from arthroscopic knee surgery.

Demo Garden:

- Marcia Winchester stated that the next workday would be Thursday, January 19, at 12:30 following an 11:30 lunch at Viva Mexican restaurant, located in the Prominence Point Publix shopping center. Various activities will take place as we await the County Commissioners' decision on what to do with the Senior Center renovation. Much of the gardens must be uprooted: Marcia could use grocery bags and mulch bags. Betty Adams is in particular need of help with her garden.
- Megan Hilf-Reilly has organized several Sunday opportunities in the demo garden from 1-4 p.m. on January 29, February 26 and March 25.
- Susan Morris volunteered to help prepare labels in advance of the Seed Separating Party, to be scheduled by Marcia later. Email Marcia (mwinc@comcast.net) if you are interested in participating.

Plant Sale: Marcia has not scheduled due to continued uncertainty about the Senior Center, but possibly in May. There will be plenty of sale plants after the gardens are uprooted. Marcia cautioned that the front gardens will still need care; only the back will be disturbed. Ed wondered if this might be a time to seek possibilities for relocating the demo gardens. Email him with suggestions.

Newsletter: Marcia acknowledged the many suggestions coming out of the December brainstorming meeting, but she reminded us that the newsletter is maintained entirely by volunteers. Her staff is working to capacity, and she suggested that additions be considered in the light of more manpower needed. If you have suggestions, get involved in implementing them. For example: attend a seminar and write about what you learned. Remember that an issue is 8 weeks in preparation: it is not a good fit for answering time-sensitive questions. (Perhaps a weekly blast from the Extension could be implemented for such things.) The newsletter remains at 10 pages for mailing purposes (you can purchase a hardcopy subscription for \$7 per year) and ease of downloading if you want to create a paper copy. Marcia welcomes articles. If you are new to writing, email her for instructions and UGA guidelines.

Publicity:

- Dot Martin was in Fulton County promoting the GMGA Conference. Sue Allen suggested we all check the website more than once as changes would be made weekly. She has created a spot for Walter Reeves' show. We will also have publicity in *North Georgia Living* and *Cherokee Life*. The *Cherokee Tribune* will do an article. If your subdivision has a newsletter, please let Sue know: we want advertising wherever we can get it.
- Meanwhile, the *Tribune* continues to feature a Master Gardener article every Friday. Sue has read back to 2004 looking for articles and would welcome fresh material from members. Remember to limit the piece to 500-550 words, and you will need to provide a head shot.

Social: Maurya Jones has agreed to head the social committee; however, at the moment she is in Florida for several months.

GMGA Conference: Gerald Phillips reported that the steering committee has been meeting monthly. After the recommitment forms are all in, he will be calling people for added help on the various committees. Remember 1-according to GMGA regulations, we have to pay the attendance fee of \$65 even though we will be working, but 2-we can count hours unless the work is for a vendor. Non-MGs are encouraged to attend; their fee is \$75. There will be opportunities to visit Reinhardt's campus, for both the arboretum and the museum, and Gibbs Gardens. Gerald hopes to have a large enough attendance that we actually profit from hosting the event. There was brief discussion about holding a raffle, and it was clarified that the public may attend an open sale day with vendors Friday afternoon after the morning set up. There will be a silent auction: please consider what you might donate.

Field Trips: Suzie Thomas is looking into a trip to Massey Lane Gardens, Fort Valley, possibly in February during the annual Festival of Camellias. She will send out an email. She has had no response from the Waleska pottery of Eddie Smith.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Plant Clinics: A chairman is needed to organize the clinics that actually require only four people to run each clinic. Email Ed Stumler (ejs230fish@windstream) if you are interested.

School Project Proposals:

- Clara Mae is the chairman of the School Projects committee, which will meet Wednesday, January 18. Since the name Junior Master Gardeners is copyrighted, all local schools will control their own clubs with their own individual names. We currently have representatives assisting with these programs at four schools: Sherry Wileman at Little River, Clara Mae at Clayton, Donna Frye at Knox and Greg Padgett at Oak Grove. Schools seeking Master Gardener funds must hereafter submit the standard proposal forms.
- Sherry Wileman submitted a form [See *secretary's book for a copy*], asking for \$350 to buy rocks, galvanized tubs, miniature garden accessories and plants. Marcia Winchester moved to allocate \$100, Russell Brannon seconded and the motion carried. The funds will come from the \$600 allocated to Special Projects in the budget.

Farm to School Program: Liz Ellis-Porter is a key participant in this program developing between the Farm Bureau and Cherokee County Schools. Master Gardeners are asked to be supportive and attend their meetings. Since we do not seem to have a clear idea as to how we can help, it was suggested that we ask a representative to come and speak.

MG Log Sheets Revision: The Extension office has prepared a document listing activities that can count toward Master Gardener hours, a list more relevant to what we now do in the community. Paul Pugliese made some corrections to be sure it is in line with UGA requirements. This can be secured at the Extension. Everyone is asked to check it over and make suggestions to Ed Stumler. Mark Dady remarked that the current database will have to be modified to make a new version compatible.

Recommitment: Mark is compiling the results of these forms. If you have not sent yours in, please do so. Mark will submit the names of those not recommitted to Clara Mae for follow up. Mark also asked everyone to keep up with contact information changes, by going into Yahoo mail to make corrections.

NEW BUSINESS

Arbor Day: The City of Canton's Tree Commission purchases trees to be given away. Steve Scott will manage our volunteers on February 17th. Until February 4 you may volunteer for two-hour time slots from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by emailing Jane Shelnett (jbshelnett@aol.com), who is also a member of the Tree Commission. After Feb. 4, contact Steve (scott350ubt@earthlink.net).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Laurel District of the Garden Club of Georgia, which will have a booth at the GMGA Convention, will be sponsoring a tour of the Gibbs Gardens on Friday May 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$35 and will include a box lunch. Profits will go toward the Garden Club of Georgia's Historic Landscape and Garden Grant fund. Mary Ellen Roos invited all to attend.
- The Milton Garden Club is looking for speakers. You can check the CCMG Facebook page for details.
- The Georgia Native Plant Society's 2012 Symposium will be held Saturday, February 11, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, GA.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 19 – Demo Garden Workday, 12:30 p.m. following lunch at Viva Mexican Restaurant

January 29 – Demo Garden Workday, 1-4 p.m.

February 2 – Demo Garden Workday

February 4 – Seminar: Wonderful World of Roses at Hickory Flat Library, 10 a.m.

February 7 - Seminar: Propagation at Canton YMCA, 7:00 p.m.

February 11 – Georgia Native Plant Symposium, Southern Polytech, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

February 11 – Seminar: Vegetable Gardening for Beginners at Ball Ground Community Center, 10:00 a.m.

February 17 – Arbor Day, Downtown Canton, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

February 16 – Demo Garden Workday

February 21 – CCMG Monthly Meeting at Canton First Methodist Church, 10 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

January 4 – Donald Krueger

January 5 – Glenda Thompson

January 10 – Marian Greenhill

January 15 – Nell Gillespie

January 19 – Viviane Decker

January 20 – Clara Mae Van Brink

February 3 – Marti Etchells

February 4 – Janis Marshall-Kroen

February 7 – Vickie Lindsey

February 8 – Monte Bores

February 8 – Gerry Slaughter

February 10 – Valarie Downey

February 15 – Ellen Reagan

February 15 – Larry Link

February 18 – Pam Raines

February 19 – Carol Jackson

February 19 – Thomas Walston