

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Cherokee County Senior Center  
July 15, 2008**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, July 15, 2008. The meeting was called to order by President Russell Brannon at 10 a.m. Members present were President Russell Brannon, Immediate Past President Glenda Thompson, President-elect Suzie Thomas, Treasurer Nell Gillespie, Historian Mary Ellen Roos, Lois Andresen, Pat Ball, Billy Davis, Lin Harris, Janis Marshall-Kroen, Joan McFather, Carol Mumaw, Pam Raines, Gail Roos, Gerry Slaughter, Diane Smith, Mary Ann Szostak, Katie Van Hiel, Pat Whiting, and Marcia Winchester. County Extension Agent Paul Pugliese was also present.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

County Extension Agent Pugliese presented slides on his recent trip to Honduras and gave an informative talk. He and two other County Agents, as well as two UGA graduate students, spent two weeks in the Central American country advising and teaching classes for members of the agriculture community there. Based at the Rancho il Paradiso in San Estaban, the education project concentrated on identifying insect problems and plant diseases, often in the field. The group visited a dairy, a coffee plantation, a banana research station, and a private agriculture college. Other activities included meeting the First Lady of Honduras, visiting ancient Mayan ruins and a tropical aviary, and participating with local Rotarians in distributing back packs brought from the United States.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

President Brannon welcomed all and awarded full status membership to Diane Smith on the completion of her 50 hours.

- Volunteers are needed for the Southern Nursery Trade Show on August 7. Hours are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. It would be a good opportunity to show that Master Gardeners are involved with the Extension service.
- By-laws updates will be posted on line soon.
- Volunteers are also needed for the three days of advanced training August 19, September 16 and October 14 at North Metro Tech. You can volunteer and also take the course for three hours credit toward your gold star.
- Any grant applications should be turned in as soon as possible.
- Remember to keep up with your hours and turn in your log sheets.

President-elect Suzie Thomas announced that the August 12th regular meeting will be at 10:00 at First United Methodist Church. The program on bees will be given by Jerry Phillips.

In the absence of Maurya Jones no secretary's report was given.

Treasurer Nell Gillespie reported a balance of \$8,120.56. Pike's will honor last year's greenbacks, though it is as yet unclear as to how much value will be assigned. Keep collecting receipts; Pike's is just behind in the paperwork.

**COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT**

Paul conducted the drawing of four names to receive rain barrels in the Forty Gallon Challenge. Winners were Megan Topper, John Hauser and Ursula Hester, all of Woodstock, and Tommy Justice of Canton. Fourteen barrels have been given away so far, and the amount of water currently pledged to be saved is 29,978 gallons per day.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Care and Share:** No report

**Merchandise:** Mary Ann Szostak clarified that to have merchandise embroidered, rather than simply screened, will cost \$1.00 extra per item. Thus T shirts will be either \$11 or \$12, sweatshirts either \$16 or \$17, and aprons either \$11 or \$12. No embroidery is available on totes, which cost \$9.75.

**Plant Sale:** Marcia announced that since Autumn Hill will not be doing a plant sale in the fall, the Master Gardeners sale will be held at the Senior Center on October 4. She will put out an email asking for volunteers.

**Tomato Tasting:** This event will be held at the Senior Center on Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. Only Master Gardener-grown tomatoes are eligible for the contest. Be sure to name your entries and compete for the golden zucchini grand prize. County Commissioner Buzz Ahrens plans to attend.

**Senior Center:** Next Thursday is a work day. We continue to need help with tours of the gardens, which are in good shape. Thursday will include propagation and work with daylilies.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The University of Georgia will begin requiring background checks on all persons working with children in any project involving the Extension and thus Master Gardeners. Paul asked that everyone fill out the required forms before August so that we may be grandfathered in on the strength of the Cherokee County School System's prior clearance. Beginning in August the new process will be more difficult and possibly expensive.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Glenda Thompson stated that volunteers would be needed to teach Jr. Master Gardening classes.
- The library project was tabled until the next meeting.

There being no further business, Katie moved and Mary Ann Seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

7/16 – Joan McFather  
7/26 – Jean Garner  
8/08 – Maura Watson  
8/08 – Paul Pugliese  
8/10 – Maurya Jones  
8/18 – Billie McIver  
8/20 – Susan Wyman  
8/27 – Becky Griffin  
8/29 – Betty Adams  
8/29 – Patricia Bowen

## **UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

July 15 – General Primary Election  
July 17 – Senior Center regular workday  
July 19 – Seminar: Beautiful Birds of the South – Hickory Flat Library – 10:30 a.m.  
Aug 07 – Senior Center workday  
Aug 07 – Tomato Tasting – Senior Center – 11 a.m.  
Aug 12 – Regular monthly meeting – First Methodist Church – 10 a.m.  
Aug 14 – Seminar Committee meeting – Hickory Flat Library – Time TBA  
Aug 16 – Seminar: Black Gold Composting/Vermiculture – Public Safety Facility – 10:30 a.m.  
Aug 19 – Advanced Master Gardener Training –Advanced Concepts in WaterSmart Landscape Design  
Aug 20 – Senior Center workday  
Sept 09 – Regular monthly meeting  
Sept 16 – Advanced Master Gardener Training  
Oct 07 – Regular monthly meeting  
Oct 14 – Advanced Master Gardener Training  
Oct 18 – GMGA Fall Conference - Marietta

