

CHEROKEE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
Monthly Meeting
Methodist Church
Tuesday May 20, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008. President Russell Brannon called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Members present were President Russell Brannon, President-Elect Suzie Thomas, Secretary Maurya Jones, Lois Andresen , Pat Ball, Judie Bicknell, Debbie Califano, Mary Campbell, Billie Davis, Viviane Decker, Liz Ellis-Porter, Lin Harris, Larry Link, Linda Lullie, Dot Martin, Joan McFather, Merrily McLaughlin, Carol Mumaw, Gerald Phillips, Pamela Raines, Linda Robbins, Gail Roos, Mary Ellen Roos, Roxanne Rutledge, Steve Scott, Jane Shelnutt, Gerry Slaughter, Diane Smith, Glenda Thompson, Janet VandeBogert, Katie Van Hiel and Pat Whiting.

President Russell Brannon introduced "Our Own" MG Guest Speakers: Dot Martin and Pat Whiting. Both ladies have extensive backgrounds in the Corporate Training field and they did a fantastic Power Point Presentation entitled "A Primer on Public Speaking." Because Russell has more requests for speakers than he can fill, he felt the need to encourage more members to get involved and participate.

Both Pat and Dot shared many useful "Tools and Techniques" to help all of us get our message out and become effective speakers at our seminars and other speaking engagements.

Because of the many requests for a copy of their presentation, Russell said that "The Primer on Public Speaking" will be posted on our website.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Russell recognized the new Master Gardeners present and asked them to stand.

Russell stated that the Christmas party is scheduled for Sat. Dec. 6 at the Rock Barn in Canton. Monte Bores is in charge of this event and needs volunteers to assist her.

A new location is needed for the annual Plant Swap. Merrily McLaughlin offered to have it at her home since she will be hosting the MG June 17th meeting. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share along with a plant to swap!

Russell, also, said he needed volunteers to put up the signs for seminars one week ahead of the event. Mary Ellen Roos and Joan McFather volunteered to take care of the Senior Center and the Cherokee City Public Safety Facility and Roxanne Rutledge and Janet VandeBogert volunteered to take care of Hickory Flat Library.

Russell announced that Paul Pugliese has flyers for the Advanced MG Water-Wise Landscaping class. Three credits will be earned for this class.

President-Elect Suzie Thomas announced the June meeting will be at Merrily

McLaughlin's home. Each member is asked to bring a covered dish. An E-mail will be sent with menu suggestions prior to June 17th. Suzie said the July picnic has been canceled and in lieu of it a Power Point Class will be scheduled at the Methodist Church for those members interested in learning how to create a Power Point Presentation as a follow-up to today's presentation.

Secretary Maurya Jones thanked Joan McFather for recording the April minutes and next read a thank you note from Pat Stewart for MG work with Canton Tree Commission on Arbor Day. Glenda Thompson moved and Linda Robbins seconded approval of the April minutes.

Treasurer - In Nell Gillespie's absence, Russell reported a balance of \$7,593.82 in checking account. Pike's Greenbacks: \$55.00 gift card for 2006; and \$528.53 for 2007.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Care and Share--Russell announced that Clara Mae VanBrink's mother recently passed away.

By-Laws--Gerry Slaughter announced the By-Laws are corrected and posted on our web site;

Junior Master Gardeners--Glenda Thompson announced that Thursday will be the last meeting of Jr. MG for this year. She added that this year's group has been very enthusiastic. Let Glenda know if you want to participate in next year's Jr. MG program. She will need volunteers every two weeks during the school year. She will be at all sessions.

Field Trips--Glenda reported that the recent field trip to Big Canoe was wonderful. Cynthia Hendrix, landscape designer who designed the grounds around this year's Southern Living Home at Big Canoe, did a fantastic job leading and guiding us on the tour of the grounds. She did a great job answering all our questions.

Plant Clinics--Gerald Phillips announced the opening of Cagle's Farmer's Market on Sat., May 31st. He added that there will be a New Union Hill Farmer's Market Exchange at the corner of Union Hill and Sugar Pike opening on June 14th. During the week it will function as a flea market and on weekends it will be a farmer's market, according to Gerald.

Regarding the 40-Gallon Water Challenge: Four participants' names, out of the 150 who signed up for the challenge, will receive rain barrels this month. The winners are Deann Hansen, Jan Buckingham, John Urbaitis and Lynn Fischer-Queen.

Merchandise Committee--Linda Lullie reported she and Mary Ann Szostak will be taking orders for tee-shirts, sweat shirts, organic bags and aprons. They will place articles available on board at extension office.

NEW BUSINESS

R.T. Jones Library Atrium--Billie Davis and Katie VanHiel have proposed a project for

the R. T. Jones Library Atrium. They have started work on the atrium and could use one more volunteer to help with the upkeep. They reported that planters there have been neglected and need sprucing up. They have pruned Japanese maples, acquired some drought tolerant plants, (need more). They both stressed that this be an ongoing project and Russell requested everyone read and look over the R.T. Jones Library Project Proposal. Proposal will be attached to the minutes on the MG website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

By-Laws proposed changes--Gerry Slaughter moved and Linda Lullie seconded the By-Laws be approved. The motion was approved.

Burgess Arboretum--Russell stated that Reinhardt is looking for MG to help identify and locate plants at the arboretum. Future plans are to make it a living classroom. Eventually, it is hoped that docents can be trained to guide the public on tours of the arboretum. Joan McFather made a motion to accept and take on the Burgess Arboretum as a project. Viviane Decker seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Submitted by,

Maurya Jones, Secretary

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

May 24 - Drought Tolerant & Native Plants of Georgia - Ball Ground Library
May 29 - Master Gardener Urban Tree Specialty Training
May 31 - Opening of Cagle Dairy Farmer's Market
June 5 - Workday at Sr. Center
June 7 - Hydrangeas & other Flowering Shrubs seminar - 10:30 a.m. Hickory Flat Library
June 14 - Union Hill Farmer's Market Plant Clinic
June 17 - Regular Monthly Meeting/Plant Swap at Merrily McLaughlin's Home
June 19 - Work day at the Senior Center

BIRTHDAYS

May 29 - Steve Scott
May 30 - Deborah Weiner
June 6 - Karen Garland
June 7 - Sherry Rainey
June 21 - Tim Luxemburger
June 24 - Margit Woods
June 26 - Lyn Priegel

COMBINATION TO SHED AT SENIOR CENTER

Turn right 3 times to 39

Turn left 1 full turn, pass 39 and stop at 20
Turn right and stop at 09
Pull shackle and open

CCMG PROJECT PROPOSAL OUTLINE

PROJECT TITLE: R.T. Jones Library Atrium Makeover

MG Proposing Project:

Billie Davis/ Katie VanHiel Date_3/16/2008

Contact Info:

Billie Davis 770-479-8661

1. Purpose of Project:

Make the atrium an attractive area for library patrons (including children) that will also demonstrate drought tolerant plants and water conservation methods.

The area could also be used for tours to educate groups i.e. JMG, BSA, garden clubs.

2. Number of Master Gardeners needed to make the project a success

Possibly 3-the first year and 1-2 every year.

Number of Hours needed:

40-50 hours this year and 24 hours yearly

Training needed:

Library volunteers to be trained on correct maintenance including watering/ dead heading, etc. BSA on planting procedures, leaflets, table tents. Train a few to give tours.

3. Funding Needed/Financial Source: \$2800-3000

Friends of the Library, Cherokee Bank, Community donations i.e.. Trayletaah Garden Club, CCMG, artist: Patricia Reeves

4. Other groups or organizations involved: BSA *see above

5. Anticipated effect project will have on the community it servers: Besides the beautification of a now neglected area, it will encourage visitors of the library to learn about plants and water usage in the garden and especially during a drought. Also visitors will get to experience the relaxing feeling of the garden area.

6. Educational value of project:

A visual demonstration of drought tolerant plants and conservative water usage. Plants labeled with table tents and leaflets provided will educate visitors on xeriscaping. Also, groups involved will learn more about the use of plants, water conservancy while they are participating in the makeover.

7. Projected beginning and ending date:

March 2008 to June 2008 and then on going with a MG checking on the garden 2X a month or as necessary.

8. Procedures required for implementing the project:

- 1)_Cooperation from library director and maintenance staff, friends of the library volunteers, Boy Scouts,**
 - 2) List of materials and schedule work in order needed**
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9. Projected sustainability and maintenance plan:

Use volunteers from friends or the library, library maintenance employees and CCMG to schedule regular maintenance. Project needs a manager to oversee the project on a regular basis

10. Annual evaluation and measurable impact of project:

Plan to keep a record of all individuals and groups that use the atrium area and encourage comments. A register book will be on table by entrance to the atrium for visitors and their comments. This will be monitored monthly by the project manager or a designee.
