

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners
Regular Monthly Meeting
Cherokee County Extension Office
April 21, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009. The meeting was called to order by President Suzie Thomas at 6:33 p.m.. Members present were President Suzie Thomas, Immediate Past President Russell Brannon, President-elect Gerald Phillips, Secretary Joan McFather, Treasurer Nell Gillespie, Historian Mary Ellen Roos, Betty Adams, Lois Andresen, Pat Ball, Judie Bicknell, Debbie Califano, Patricia Chastain, Mariana Divita, Mageeda Doe, Maurya Jones, Linda Lullie, Dot Martin, Debbie Meadows, Carolyn Mills, Gail Roos, Steve Scott, Jane Shelnett, Gerry Skalsky, Gerry Slaughter, Diane Smith, Mary Ann Szostak, Pat Tanner, Glenda Thompson, Katie Van Hiel, Maura Watson, Pat Whiting, and Marcia Winchester. County Extension Agent Paul Pugliese was also present.

OFFICER REPORTS

President

- President Suzie asked for the introduction of guests. Gerald Phillips introduced our guest speaker Windy Tilley, Judie Bicknell introduced Johnny Miller, Pat Whiting introduced Carla Hager, Steve Scott introduced his wife and Paul Pugliese introduced MG Carolyn Mills, a recent transfer from Florida. He asked that a mentor be assigned to her.
- Suzie also introduced Elizabeth Carter and Mary Ann Krus, Master Gardeners from Cobb County, who spoke briefly to invite us to attend their garden tour to be held on May 9, from 10a.m. to 5 p.m. This annual event will include MG member gardens. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the gardens. More information can be found at their website: www.cobbmastergardeners.org.
- Suzie then introduced Linda Martin speaking on behalf of the Cherokee County Arts Council. They will be holding their annual Arts Festival on May 16 and 17 at Brown Park in Canton, and would like Master Gardeners to be present to answer questions relative to plant purchases in the Serenity Gardens tent. We may have a free booth space as well, where we may sell our books and Cobra Heads. Suzie passed around a sign up sheet for those interested. Suzie's announcements included the appointments of several committee chairmen: Pat Whiting for Seminars in 2009-2010, Pat Chastain as her assistant chairman, and Jean Garner as chair of the County Fair Booth committee.

President-elect Gerald Phillips announced the May 19 regular meeting to be held at Canton First United Methodist Church, the program to be presented by Marvin Colston on the Reinhardt Nature Club.

Secretary Joan McFather reported no correspondence sent and asked that everyone sign the attendance sheet. Marcia Winchester asked to have the March minutes amended to include the fact that the summer picnic will be open to family members and that all MGs should bring a covered dish to share. Linda Lullie moved to approve the amended minutes from March; Mary Ellen Roos seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer Nell Gillespie reported a balance of \$7,490.73, plus the sale of one book and one Cobra Head at the Funk Heritage celebration, adding an additional \$35.00.

EXTENSION AGENT

- Paul suggested the possibility of presenting fifteen minute talks at the Arts Council's Serenity Garden. There was some discussion as to whether we would want to present abbreviated versions of some of our seminars, but no action was taken.
- The court room upstairs is available for meetings taking place at night if the classroom proves to be too small. We should make a reservation.
- We have enough applications for the coming summer Master Gardener Training. Of the 29, 7 or 8 are from school-oriented persons. The applications should be reviewed by the end of April for notification to take place May 1. Mary Ellen Roos, Marcia Winchester, Pat Whiting and Russell Brannon agreed to be the review committee. Approval of PLU credits is still pending.
- Dates have been set for the 2010 class: January 5 – April 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. one day a week on Tuesdays. It will be taught at North Metro Tech and will be open to several counties.
- Paul will set up an Earth Day display for the Extension and Master Gardeners.
- Ginger Garrard, Canton's Main Street Program Director, is putting together a plan for a downtown farmers' market to be held on Friday afternoons from 4 to 7 p.m. in Historic Downtown Canton. She hopes to start the same weekend as the Arts Council's event and run it into October. She has asked Paul if any MGs would be interested in participating/volunteering. Marcia wondered if there would be enough produce available in mid-May. No action was taken.
- There have been two site visit requests. Viviane Decker has volunteered for Woodstock Presbyterian Church; we need a volunteer for Hillcrest Baptist Church.
- The Southeastern Flower Show is experiencing economic difficulties and possibly will not occur next year. Perhaps other smaller events will take its place. Producers of the show hope to have it reconfigured for 2011.
- Four names were drawn to receive rain barrels in the 40 Gallon Challenge: Bob Hardt of Canton, Ginny Clark of Woodstock, MG Sandi White of Free Home and Mary Sue Dearing of Canton were the winners.

Suzie and Gerald reminded everyone of the Senior Extravaganza to be held May 2 in Woodstock. We will have a booth from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Karen Rockwell has volunteered to chair the event.

Diane Smith asked for help with her May 9 seminar. Pat Ball and Maurya Jones volunteered. Lois Andresen asked Marcia to comment on a Native Plant Society program featuring Greg Colvacher speaking on plant communities at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Marcia suggested carpooling—there is a charge for parking.

Pat Tanner announced Saturday, April 25, as a workday to beautify downtown Woodstock. Ace Hardware is donating the plant material, and Woodstock employees will place the concrete planters. MGs would be helpful in giving advice from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Meet at the gazebo.

Suzie announced two further opportunities: On May 1 at the Macedonia Elementary School Cultural Arts Day, Donna Goodall asks for a Master Gardener to talk with the children. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also Lori Cagle and Monica Jarvis are interested in bringing Junior Master Gardening to Avery Elementary School. They would like to talk about the possibility before the end of this school year. No action was taken.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Care and Share: Pat Ball asked for information concerning Margit Woods' mother.

Demonstration Gardens: The next work day is May 7. Workers will install annuals and pot plants for the sale. The water system has been fixed and will be used to water annuals. It is available to the cutting beds. The gardens look good; some vegetables are in, including tomatoes.

Newsletter: May 10 is the deadline for the June-July issue. Articles on "Cool Tools" and "My Favorite Plant" are always welcome. (Marcia also noted that books by Michael Dirr and Allan Armitage have been bought to be part of the kits taken to plant clinics.)

Plant Sale: Set up for the sale will be held on May 1 for the sale at the Senior Center. Marcia will need tents for shade and tables for the MG gardening books, Cobra Heads and other books as well as crafts. All are welcome to bring crafts. Marcia will need volunteers to sit at the tables. Russ will invite Zach White, Reinhardt's horticulturist, to bring any unsold plants from his sale, and Carol Mumaw will teach a session of craft-making in time for the fall plant sale. Let Marcia know if you wish to be added to her list of volunteers.

By Laws: The deadline for any suggestions is May 11. Gerry Slaughter will meet with her committee on May 14 at 1 p.m.

Cobra Sales: No report

Speakers Bureau: no report

Burgess Arboretum: Russell Brannon has enough volunteers for the plant sale at Reinhardt. He does need more volunteers for the 1-5 p.m. time slot on the May 5 workday.

Upper Etowah River Landscape Project: Russell reported that considerable landscaping had been done, and he passed around several pictures. The original agreement was for Diane Minick to have Alliance volunteers do the heavy work, and MGs would serve in an advisory capacity. There were no Alliance people on site last Friday. Russell will speak with her, explaining that we cannot continue if the agreement is not fulfilled by them.

Publicity: Reporting for Billie Davis, Suzie explained that she looked into all alternatives but found nothing more practical than having the signs printed commercially. She emphasized that seminar presenters are responsible for taking down and storing in the shed signage relating to their seminars. We cannot have the signs remaining up after the event has taken place. She added that we have two additional big signs.

Rock Barn: Suzie reported that she, Gerry Slaughter and Dot Martin worked the first workday as "payment" for our free use of the facility for our December 2009 Christmas party. The next work dates are April 25 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and April 26 (1-3 p.m.)

NEW BUSINESS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

PROGRAM

Windy Tilley of The Rose Gardener gave a program on rose care. She gave a brief history of how she and her husband got started with their “obsession,” then commented on the points made in their handout “The Lazy/Injured Man’s Guide to Growing Roses.” [*Filed with secretary’s minutes.*] She also displayed a line of tools and gloves for which she is an outlet. Further information can be found at the websites, where you can also sign up for their newsletter www.therosegardener.com and www.gardenwithus.com

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. with a motion by Russell Brannon and a second by Marcia Winchester.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- Apr 22,23,24 – Burgess Arboretum Plant Sale: Reinhardt College Campus
- Apr 22 – Cherokee High Horticulture Spring Plant Sale, 3:30 – 6 p.m.
- Apr 25 – Seminar: Native Plants in Your Landscape: HFL, 10 a.m.
- Apr 25 – Rock Barn, Work on Landscape, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
- Apr 26 – Rock Barn, Work on Landscape, 1-3 p.m.
- May 01 – Set up Plant Sale, 12:30---
- May 02 – Plant Sale, Senior Center, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- May 07 – Demo Garden Work Day, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- May 09 – Seminar: Container Gardening, BGL, 10 a.m.
- May 09 – Cobb Master Gardener Tour, 10-5
- May 11 – Deadline for ByLaw Changes to Gerry Slaughter
- May 16 – Seminar: Gardening with Kids, Senior Center, 10 a.m.
- May 16 & 17 – Cherokee County Arts Council Festival, Brown Park, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- May 19 – Regular Monthly Meeting, CFUMC, 10 a.m.
Speaker: Marvin Colston on the Reinhardt Nature Club
- May 21 – Demo Garden Work Day, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- May 23 – Seminar: Succulents, Cacti & Ornamental Grasses, HFL 10 a.m.
- June 06 – Seminar: Hydrangeas, HFL, 10 a.m.
- June 13 – Seminar: Herbs—Plants with Many Uses, Senior Center, 10 a.m.
- June 08-July 13 – Mg Intern Class, Canton
- Oct 17 – Fall GMGA Conference

BIRTHDAYS

- 4/22 – Liz Ellis-Porter
- 4/24 – Dot Martin
- 4/28 – Rachel Prakash
- 5/10 – Lynn Knotts
- 5/11 – Mageeda Doe
- 5/29 – Steve Scott