

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners
Regular Monthly Meeting
Canton First United Methodist Church
April 16, 2011**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2011. The meeting was called to order by President Clara Mae Van Brink at 10:02 a.m. Members present were President Clara Mae Van Brink, Immediate Past President Gerald Phillips, Vice President Ed Stumler, Secretary Joan McFather, Treasurer Diane Walton, Betty Adams, Judie Bicknell, Tom Connolly, Sandra Ferguson, Nell Gillespie, Carol Gilson, James Gilson, Carol Jackson, Vickie Lindsey, Dot Martin, Pam Raines, Gail Roos, Mary Ellen Roos, Gerry Slaughter, Diane Smith, Suzie Thomas, Sandi White, and Marcia Winchester. Interns Megan Hilf-Reilly, Elizabeth Kelley and Sherry Wileman were also present. County Extension Agent Paul Pugliese was unable to be present.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Clara Mae Van Brink welcomed all.

Secretary Joan McFather asked for and received approval of the March 2011 minutes as posted on line. There was no correspondence. She reminded everyone to correct attendance from previous meetings on the sign in sheets if necessary.

Treasurer:

- Diane Walton supplied copies of her **monthly report**. Cash on hand as of March 1, 2011, was \$9,075.70. Deposits in March: \$804.00, expenses in March: \$884.34, leaving an April 1 balance of \$8,795.36. She also noted that we now have a direct monthly transfer to our Money Marker Account of \$100, indicated at the end of the report as a balance of \$200.02, leaving a balance of \$8,795.36 in our Operating Account. [*See secretary's book for entire report.*]
- Diane also displayed the **new bug charts**, to be available for sale at our seminars and clinics for \$8 each. MGs may buy them at any time from Diane.
- Diane displayed new dark green MG **aprons** and tan canvas **bags** with our logo. The new order form includes these.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Social: In Maurya Jones's absence, Clara Mae announced the **Master Gardener Barbecue** to be held at her house on May 21 at 6 p.m. Maura still needs door prizes. Marcia Winchester suggested using a box of gardening books left over at the Senior Center after the plant sale.

Seminars: In the absence of Karen Garland, Clara Mae expressed thanks to everyone who was able to attend her training session on giving seminars. Another one will be offered on May 3rd at the Senior Center, time to be announced later. Clara Mae thought it might be a good idea to hold similar training sessions geared toward technical expertise. Perhaps members could be trained to evaluate power points in existence and/or be prepared to do the technical presentation of others' seminars.

Plant Sale: The plant sale netted \$2,060, including the sale of 4 Cobras. Marcia hopes to do another in the fall, depending on construction at the Senior Center. She asked for all to save old plastic blinds: the slats make good plant identification markers. Clara Mae praised the plant sales as places for the public to get good advice; Gerald suggested that we add the dates to the bookmarks. Marcia also needs someone to re-do and keep up with the laminated cards. Sandra Ferguson volunteered, but does not have access to a laminator. Anyone who does should contact Marcia.

Demonstration Garden: Next Thursday is a workday: fertilizing and taking ice plant cuttings. Marcia thanking her greenhouse watering crew: Vickie Lindsey and Mary Ellen Roos. Gerald commented that there will be a sprinkler system for the new holding area.

Newsletter: The current issue is out. Marcia will send “nag-o-grams” to those on her volunteer list.

Field Trips: Suzie announced a trip to Barrington Hall in Roswell for Wednesday, May 11. We should be there by 9:30 a.m. and can either bring lunch to be eaten on the grounds or adjourn to a local restaurant. She will send out a reminder email.

Plant Clinics: Carol Jackson noted that each clinic should have one instructor and two assistants. We will be doing a clinic at the Canton Festival of the Arts.

Care and Share: Mary Ellen reported that Roxanne Rutledge has had further bad news: a suspicious spot on her bladder. There will be consultations at M.D. Anderson. She is in good spirits, however, and asked Mary Ellen to express her thanks and love to all. Her sister is with her this week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

GMGA 2012 Conference: Gerald reminded us of the conference dates, April 29 & 30, 2012, suggesting that we all plan to leave the preceding week open for preparation. He hopes to have committee lists available at the next meeting for sign up. We also anticipate asking Bartow, Pickens and Paulding County MGs for assistance with manpower. We will advertise at the Rome and Macon conferences this year. Be thinking about potential vendors and sponsors.

NEW BUSINESS

Gardening with the Masters: Diane expressed her belief that we need to revise for a second edition which we would have ready for the conference a year from now. She asked if there was interest in forming a committee: Carol Jackson, Sherry Wileman, Gerald Phillips, James Gilson, Megan Hilf-Reilly, Joan McFather and Diane all volunteered. Others should get in touch with Diane until a chairman is decided upon. It was additionally suggested that we purchase more Cobras, and Sandi White felt that we should also invest in a few of the long-handled ones.

Master Gardeners Barbecue: The barbecue on May 21 at 6 p.m. replaces the July event of years past, but does NOT replace the May meeting.

Facebook Page: Lesli Peterson has volunteered to create and maintain a Facebook page for Cherokee County Master Gardeners. It will simply be for information and will link visitors to our website. Set up correctly, it should not have problems with privacy issues or other misuse.

Plant Swap: Marcia announced that a plant swap would be held on May 26th at Debbie Meadows' home. Bring a covered dish and two plants to trade. No time given as yet.

Paul's Party: The Extension will host a going away drop in party for Paul from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Senior Center on May 17th. We have agreed to help with food. Members are encouraged to write personal notes to Paul which might then be collected for him. Further discussion ensued about an appropriate recognition from Master Gardeners as a whole, since gifts may no longer be given. It was decided to plant a tree in his honor at the Burgess Arboretum.

MASTER GARDENER TIPS OF THE MONTH

Sprinkle garlic cloves in your rose beds to repel aphids....Use ice cubes to water houseplants without excess runoff....Trays of rocks under houseplants can be watered to provide a moist climate....This is prime time for ticks: check yourself and your pets often, more likely for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever carriers than for Lyme Disease. As a veterinarian, Megan recommends Vector D. Remove ticks carefully; do not squash!

WELCOME

Clara Mae was pleased to welcome three of our new interns, asking each to tell a little about herself. Sherry Wileman waited to become a Master Gardener until her retirement from an executive search career. She is particularly interested in Junior Master Gardeners because she wants to garden with her grand kids. Elizabeth Kelly retired from AT&T, then went into horticulture retail before deciding she didn't like it. Her interests are in the plant clinics and the demo garden. Megan Hilf-Reilly is a practicing veterinarian who loves both plants and animals. She is currently the president of Sixes Garden Club and wants to explore all that we do.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **GNPS:** The Georgia Native Plant Society's **garden tour** is May 7, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. They could use help, but volunteers must be members of GNPS. The shifts are 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1:30 to 6 p.m.—you will be able to get a personal tour as a helper. The GNPS **plant sale** set up is April 29, followed by the sale on April 30. Hours: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Master Gardener Day at Autumn Hill:** April 23rd, 15% off.
- **Upper Etowah River Alliance:** Diane Minick is working on seminars and would like help. She will hold a native plant exchange the last week in April.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21 – Demo Garden Workday, 10-3

April 23 – Seminar: Let's Hear It for the Birds, Hickory Flat Library, 10 a.m.

April 30 – **CANCELLED** Seminar: Alternative Gardening Techniques, Senior Center, 10 a.m.

April 30 – GNPS Native Plant Sale

May 3 – Seminar Presenter Training, Senior Center, time TBA

May 7 – Seminar: Native Plants – The Wonders of Woodland and Shade Gardening, Senior Center, 10 a.m.

May 14 – Seminar: Hooray for Herbs, Senior Center, 10 a.m.

May 17 – Drop In Party for Paul Pugliese, Senior Center, 4-6 p.m.

May 17 – **Regular Meeting**, Senior Center, 6:30 p.m. Program: How to Build and Arrange Hanging Baskets by Lady Slipper Nursery

May 21 – Seminar: How to Garden Frugally, Hickory Flat Library, 10 a.m.

May 21 – Master Gardener Barbecue, at the Van Brinks', 6 p.m.

BIRTHDAYS

May 10 – Lynn Knotts

May 11 – Mageeda Doe

May 29 – Steve Scott