

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners
Regular Monthly Meeting
Cherokee County Senior Center
August 16, 2011**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2011. At 6:38 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Vice President Ed Stumler. Members present were Vice President Ed Stumler, Treasurer Diane Walton, Secretary Joan McFather, Sue Allen, Lois Andresen, Russell Brannon, Tom Connolly, Mark Dady, Billie Davis, Mariana Divita, Carol Gilson, James Gilson, Megan Hilf-Reilly, Carol Jackson, Maurya Jones, Elizabeth Kelly, Shirley Lowe, Dot Martin, Debbie Meadows, Carol Mumaw, Pam Raines, Karen Rockwell-Lail, Diane Smith, Suzie Thomas, Sherry Wileman, Marcia Winchester and Deborah Wyatt.

In the absence of President Clara Mae Van Brink, Vice President Ed Stumler welcomed everyone then presented to Elizabeth Kelly her 50 hour certificate, making her an active Master Gardener.

PROGRAM

Ed then introduced Tommy Nobis III, Manager at Buck Jones Nursery on Hwy. 140 in Woodstock. Tommy spoke on issues confronting nurseries these days and new ways of conducting nursery business as a result. Business is increasingly impacted by technology, he said, citing the use of electronic information available online and through smart phones. Vegetable gardening and the use of organics have increased dramatically, annuals have declined in popularity, and the larger companies are using branding—such as Proven Winners or Southern Living—to sell perennials and shrubs. Speaking of Buck Jones, Tommy emphasized that as a smaller company they were happy to do special orders for customers and that they continued to offer Master Gardeners who showed their badges a 30% discount. After talking about the various shrubs and products he had brought with him, Tommy graciously left them to be used as door prizes.

OFFICER REPORTS

Vice President: Ed Stumler announced the need for a nominating committee. According to the Bylaws, the executive committee selects a chair and a co-chair for this committee. These will be Diane Smith, chair, and Katie Van Heil, co-chair, both having accepted. At the August meeting the membership is asked to provide three more members of the committee. Selected were Carol Jackson, Maurya Jones and Jim Gilson. Marcia Winchester moved and Mark Dady seconded approval of the nominating committee and the motion passed.

Secretary Joan McFather asked for and received approval of the July 2011 minutes as posted on line. She wrote a condolence card to the Fonseca family on the death of Marco Fonseca, a former Cherokee County Agriculture Agent, and a thank you letter to Dr. Joe Kitchens for hospitality at the Funk Heritage Center, where we held our July meeting.

Treasurer: Diane Walton supplied copies of her monthly report. Cash on hand as of July 1, 2011, was \$8,310.77. Deposits in July: \$128.46, expenses in July: \$1,080.15, debit to money market

account: \$100.00, leaving an August 1 balance in the operating account of \$7,259.08. The money market account balance is \$600.22. [*See secretary's book for entire report.*]

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Care & Share: In Pat Ball's absence, Glenda reported that members are taking means to Roxanne and Keith. Please contact her to volunteer: 770-664-5074 or thompsonkelly@bellsouth.net

Demo Garden: Marcia Winchester announced that August 18 would be the next workday from 9 to 11:30 a.m., then lunch. It is time to harvest seeds: particularly desirable are parsley, basil and Bronze Fennel. She is planning a 'pot party' for the interns, who will learn to pot up plants for sale. Other possible activities include making cuttings and sowing seeds in flats.

Plant Sale: On the 18th also will be a Senior Center meeting with the new architect; we understand that some scaling back of the expansion is possible. Marcia believes we will be able to have our plant sale at the Center on October 1 (set up on September 30). Marcia will ask the Animal Shelter if they want to do a rummage sale the same day. She plans to hold on to any plants not sold to take to the Senior Sense Day activity Director Nathan Brandon has organized at the Bluffs on October 7. He has asked the Master Gardeners to participate, so we will have a small sale there as well.

Newsletter: The current issue is out with an article about long-handled pruners. Members say they're great to work with. They can be found at Lowes for \$36; Home Depot's cost more. Help is needed in collecting rainfall statistics; if you are interested, contact her at mwinc@comcast.net

County Fair: Chairman Karen Lail announced a theme of 'Natural Predators.' The next committee meeting will be on Thursday, August 25 at 10 a.m. at the Extension. Set up for the Fair is 2-5 p.m. on September 11; takedown is on Monday, September 19. Karen needs volunteers as well as live plants and artificial snakes and birds. Contact her at rkrivers12@yahoo.com

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

GMGA Conference Table: Diane Walton reported that she had received a number of suggestions as to what we might sell at our booth at the GMGA 2012 Conference. She will need a committee of 5 to meet in October and volunteers to sell items at the booth.

GMGA Sponsors: Ed Stumler has put together packets of information for use in contacting sponsors. We hope that Gibbs Gardens will be a sponsor; they have already donated two day-passes for inclusion in a door prize basket we will have at the Macon convention in October.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ed mentioned the 'Dig Deep' handout cards advertising Master Gardeners available at the Extension.

- Lois Andresen announced the Eagle Scout project, building of a new compost bin, due for completion on September 18. She and Billie Davis will oversee it.
- September 22 is the deadline for early registration at reduced rate for the Macon convention in October.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Suzie Thomas moved and Carol Gilson seconded adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m. Thereafter a raffle for door prizes was held.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 18 Demo Garden workday
 Aug. 20 Woodstock Farmers Market Plant Clinic
 Aug. 27 Lecture in Insects @ Rose Creek Library 10am
 Aug 27 Cagle Farmers Market Plant Clinic

Sept. 1 Demo Garden workday
 Sept 1 Waleska Farmers Market Plant Clinic
 Sept. 10 Lecture on Fall Vegetable Gardening @ Hickory Flat library 10am
 Sept. 10 Canton Farmers Market Plant Clinic
 Sept 10 Woodstock Farmers Market Plant Clinic
 Sept. 15 Demo Garden work-day
 Sept. 17 Lecture on Fall gardening @ Ball Ground Community Center
 Sept. 20 monthly meeting @ Sr. Center
 Sept. 24 Lecture on Gardening with Native Plants @ Hickory flat library 10am

BIRTHDAYS

Katie Van Heil – August 18
 Susan Wyman – August 20
 Becky Griffin – August 27
 Betty Adams – August 29
 Patricia Bowen – August 29
 Russell Brannon – August 29
 Sandi White – August 30
 Sandra Ferguson – September 4
 Becky Dixon – September 10
 Roxanne Rutledge – September 20
 Debbie Califano – September 25