

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Canton First United Methodist Church  
January 18, 2011**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, January 18, 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, Sue Allen, Judie Bicknell, Monte Bores, Russell Brannon, Mark Dady, Billy Davis, Becky Dixon, Carol Gilson, Becky Griffin, Carol Jackson, Maurya Jones, Lynn Knotts, Vickie Lindsey, Shirley Lowe, Carol Mumaw, Pam Raines, Linda Robbins, Gail Roos, Mary Ellen Roos, Gerry Slaughter, Diane Smith, Mary Ann Szostak, Suzie Thomas, Glenda Thompson, Katie Van Hiel, Sandi White, Marcia Winchester, and Susan Wyman. Intern present: Elizabeth Kelly. County Extension Agent Paul Pugliese was unable to be present.

### **OFFICER REPORTS**

**President** Clara Mae Van Brink welcomed all and introduced this year's officers.

**Secretary** Joan McFather asked that all members remember to park in the high parking lot. She asked for and received approval of the November 2010 minutes as posted on line. She read a note from the Ball Ground Library expressing thanks for the book we donated there.

**Treasurer** Diane Walton supplied copies of her monthly report. Cash on hand as of November 30, 2010 was \$11,454.24. Deposits in December: \$0.00, expenses in December: \$1,984.56 leaving a January balance of \$9,469.68. [*See secretary's book for entire report.*] The budget for the coming year will be presented at the February meeting. The fiscal year is now officially January 1 – December 31. Diane explained that Pikes has had since April 2010 a new "Play in the Dirt" card for rewards. Because individual members may have had cards during the last period during which we collected approximately \$3,000 in receipts, there is doubt that the receipts will be honored by current management. Meanwhile Diane will look into our having a "Play in the Dirt" card for Master Gardeners. Gift certificates of \$25 are granted for every \$600 spent. Discussion revealed that few members spend that much individually but that collectively we could profit and earn certificates to be used for MG projects.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Arbor Day:** is February 18. Chairman Jane Shelnett (absent) will be in touch with those who signed up to help. Anyone interested in helping should contact her.

**Social:** Maurya Jones and co-chair Dalia Lowe need door prizes.

**Historian:** Clara Mae needed a chair for this committee; Becky Dixon volunteered.

**Christmas Party Report:** Gerald Phillips announced that the committee had spent \$363.00. Heavy hors d'oeuvres brought by members seems to be the way to go; extra meat platters aren't necessary. Because December parties are difficult to book in places big enough for us, Clara Mae would like instead to have a Thanksgiving party early in November that would take the place of the November meeting. We might have a cookie swap at a December meeting. Members present were receptive, but we will have to look at the by-laws. Gerry Slaughter moved and Carol Mumaw seconded tabling the matter. The motion carried.

**Care and Share:** Members contributed that Katie Van Hiel has lost her brother and will be going to Chicago for the funeral. Chairman Pat Ball was herself in a bad car accident.

**Seminars:** No report in the absence of Karen Garland. [*Note: In a subsequent newspaper article we have learned that our county libraries will have to curtail their hours, impacting where our seminars will be held.*]

**Demonstration Garden:** This Thursday's workday will begin at 1 p.m. due to the cold forecast. For interns, Marcia explained that workdays are held the first and third Thursdays. The demo garden has individual gardens within it, each having a chairman. In this teaching garden occur plant identification, propagating instruction, staking, and other garden activities. At this current workday volunteers will examine newly drawn plans for the Senior Center expansion. They will transplant hellebores into the propagation bed and learn to identify winter weeds. Marcia can always use help. Some discussion ensued as to possible uses for an atrium enclosure planned for the center. Send any ideas to Marcia.

**Seed Separating Party:** Marcia asks that collected seeds from our gardens be taken to the Senior Center or the Extension or to her. She will hold the "party" in March, a learning event. It is limited to 20 participants, so contact her if you are not already on her list: mwinc@comcast.net. Members are asked to identify the seeds by name and color. [*Subsequent to the meeting, Marcia has announced the date as March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10-3 p.m. at the Extension.*]

**Newsletter:** Marcia is planning a new column about vegetable gardening, "Veggie Corner." Sandi White and Gerald Phillips both expressed interest in contributing. Linda Lullie has joined Mignon Fleishel in laying out the newsletter. As always, please contribute articles.

**Publicity:** Chairman Sue Allen announced her committee with thanks. One thousand book marks have been printed, 500 for each half of the year. These may be picked up at the Extension for distribution. [*Again, please note that library closing hours will impact the accuracy of these bookmarks.*] Sue asks that we all send relevant photos to her for publicity purposes.

**Mentoring:** In Dot Martin's absence, Clara Mae announced Carol Gilson as the new chair.

**Landscape Design Class:** Ed Stumler reported for Nell Gillespie that the fall class was cancelled due to small numbers. The committee would like to open the class to Master Gardeners for the regular rate of \$50 per couple: individual Master Gardeners could pair up, with the understanding that one set of materials is provided per pair. The spring class will start

February 21 and continue on Mondays and Thursdays for five weeks, culminating in professional evaluations of students' landscape plans.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

GMGA 2012 Conference: Gerald Philips announced a committee meeting for February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:30 a.m. at the Extension. At that time sub-committee chairs will be decided and a theme selected. Please give Gerald any suggestions as to speaker, sponsor and vendor possibilities. We have received a packet of instructions from a former convention. We will need to have a booth advertising the 2012 convention at the Fall 2011 convention. Gerald noted that we will be reimbursed our expenses from GMGA, but only after we incur the expenditures.

## **PRESENTATION**

Clara Mae presented out-going president Gerald with a card of thanks including a gift certificate. Without hesitation Gerald said he would use it to purchase a package of bees.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Intern Requirements:** Mark Dady discussed changes in intern duty at the Extension. He is working with Extension Agent Paul Pugliese on ways that phone duty could be done from home and other possibilities that will make the 50-hour requirement not quite so intimidating.

## **MYSTERY MASTER GARDENER**

Members enjoyed a slide presentation leading up to the correct guess by Marcia Winchester that the Mystery Master Gardener for January is Susan Wyman.

## **MASTER GARDENER TIP OF THE MONTH**

Clara Mae demonstrated the use of otherwise-recycled materials in lightening the weight of large planters. She uses flattened soda bottles and aluminum cans. Other members contributed further suggestions, such as shredded paper, leaves, pinecones and plastic bubble wrap—anything but Styrofoam peanuts.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Gerry Slaughter moved and Carol Mumaw seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 21 – Demo Garden Workday, 1 p.m.

January 23 – GMGA Winter Conference, Gainesville, Georgia

February 2 – 2012 GMGA Conference Planning Meeting, Extension, 10:30 a.m.

February 3 – Demo Garden Workday, 10 a.m. unless below 40

February 5 – Seminar: Gardening for All Seasons – Winter, Hickory Flat Library, 10 a.m.  
February 15 – Monthly Meeting, Canton First United Methodist Church, 10 a.m.  
February 17 – Midterm Exam, Extension  
Demo Garden Workday, 10 a.m. unless below 40  
February 18 – Arbor Day  
February 19 – Seminar: A B C of Gardening, 10 a.m.  
GNPS Symposium, Mercer University, Atlanta  
February 21 – Landscape Design Classes begin through March 10<sup>th</sup>, Mondays and Thursdays  
February 25-26 – Southeastern Flower Show, Cobb Galleria  
February 26 – Seminar: Vegetable Gardening for Beginners, 10 a.m.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

January 4 Donald Krueger  
January 5 Glenda Thompson  
January 10 Marian Greenhill  
January 15 Nell Gillespie  
January 19 Viviane Decker  
January 20 Clara Mae Van Brink  
February 3 Marti Etchells  
February 4 Janis Marshall-Kroen  
February 7 Vickie Lindsey  
February 8 Monte Bores  
February 8 Gerry Slaughter  
February 10 Valarie Downey  
February 15 Larry Link  
February 18 Pamela Raines  
February 19 Carol Jackson  
February 19 Thomas Walston