

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners
Regular Monthly Meeting
Canton First United Methodist Church
January 19, 2010**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2010. The meeting was called to order by President Gerald Phillips at 10:05 a.m. Members present were President Gerald Phillips, Immediate Past President Suzie Thomas, President-elect Clara Mae Van Brink, Secretary Joan McFather, Treasurer Diane Walton, Betty Adams, Pat Ball, Russell Brannon, Debbie Califano, Patricia Chastain, Billie Davis, Viviane Decker, Becky Dixon, Martha Etchells, Jean Garner, Nell Gillespie, Carol Jackson, Maurya Jones, Lynn Knotts, Dot Martin, Pam Raines, Linda Robbins, Gail Roos, Mary Ellen Roos, Carol Royball, Jane Shelnett, Diane Smith, Ed Stumler, Mary Ann Szostak, Glenda Thompson, Pat Whiting and Marcia Winchester. County Extension Agent Paul Pugliese was unable to be present.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Gerald Phillips welcomed everyone, presented outgoing president Suzie Thomas with a gift from the organization, and introduced the new officers for the year.

Secretary Joan McFather stated that she had written one thank you note—to First Methodist Church for allowing us to meet at the church. She read a thank you note from Judy Haygood. She also read aloud a correction to the minutes from the November meeting, clarifying the need for a budget line item allowing for the paying of bills during the time of the audit process.

Retiring Treasurer Nell Gillespie reported a balance of \$10,330, a sum that does not include the allocation of \$50 each to the Ball Ground and Hickory Flat libraries for the purchase of gardening books. She will also spend an additional sum to bring our Georgia sales tax obligation up to date. Nell asked everyone to be sure to cash any checks she has written to them. At the end of the month, the books will be turned over to Pam Raines for auditing and thereafter to Diane Walton, our new treasurer.

AWARDS

In the absence of Extension Agent Paul Pugliese, Gerald and Clara Mae handed out Certificates of Appreciation to all those present who earned 25 or more volunteer hours last year. Absentees' certificates will be at the Extension office.

EXTENSION AGENT REPORT

In Paul's absence Gerald mentioned that Paul has been very busy putting updated Master Gardener material on line. Please check there for what you need.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christmas Party 2009: Suzie Thomas reported that 88 of the 94 pre-registered guests attended the party at the Rock Barn. Party expenses came to \$511; the raffle baskets brought in \$183, and 115 items were donated for MUST. Suzie praised all who participated in making the party a success and thanked the Van Brinks especially for the wonderful meats. Gerald expressed a need for a larger facility. The Gordy at Reinhardt was suggested, as were the fellowship hall at First Methodist and the Lodge at Bridge Mill.

Care and Share: Pat Ball announced that Roxanne Rutledge has begun her last round of chemotherapy.

Seminars: Pat Whiting announced that she had sent a lengthy email to all seminar presenters and administrators. In it she includes three attachments: 1) a Master Gardener Presenter Introduction Sheet that is the class introduction document. This can be used at the beginning of the seminar, allowing you to talk about yourself and the other Master Gardeners that are assisting you and the organization. 2) Seminar Roles and Responsibilities, an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the presenter and administrator(s), and 3) a presenter and admin checklist. The new MG camera will be included in the kit so that pictures may be taken. Pat also asked that the presenter of any seminar that is cancelled please call the site and let them know: the libraries are advertising our classes, and it would be discourteous not to do so. First and/or second choices of UGA publications requested have been ordered, so you will have hard copies available for participants. Encourage all to check our website where they will find electronic versions. This year an exit questionnaire will ask if participants would welcome night classes. Remember that although it is the responsibility of the publicity committee to place relevant signs out prior to seminars, it is up to administrators to return the signs to Senior Center storage.

Newsletter: Marcia is working on the February-March issue. Diane Walton is checking material in issues for which we have hard copy only: look for timely articles to be reprinted in upcoming issues. Intern Bonnie Westbrook is working on re-designing the directory into categories of interest.

Demonstration Garden: Marcia announced that forecast heavy rains on Thursday, January 21, would probably cancel the workday scheduled for that day.

Intern Training: There will be a hands-on class in propagation and pruning scheduled in the demonstration garden for the current Cherokee County interns on Tuesday, March 18. Contact Marcia if you would like to be present.

Seed Separating Party: Marcia is planning this event for the latter part of March and will limit participation to 15 or so members. Meanwhile everyone is encouraged to save seed. Be sure to identify your collections with the Latin names and the color.

Burgess Arboretum: Russell Brannon thanked everyone who worked on the Arboretum project last year. It was a productive year with a very satisfying grand opening that brought in additional contributions beyond the \$720 grant received from GMGA. Russell attended a meeting for 2010 on January 15 where plans were begun to index additional plants as well as to begin mapping out GPS coordinates for the 125 currently identified trees. Plans include creating a campus overlay map and formalizing training for docents. Russell was pleased with publicity surrounding the project, including a full page in *The Scoop*, thanks to Mary Ellen Roos, and an article by *The Scoop's* editor, Fred Dyer, on the GMGA grant. We should all consider sending in our dues to belong to the state organization, since much of the resulting funds goes toward grants such as we have received.

Mentors: Dot Martin expressed pleasure with both the Cherokee group of interns and their mentors, who helped with the first class three weeks ago. Next up is the midterm on February 16, when mentors will provide lunch here at the Extension. While we are all invited to contribute to and attend the lunch, we must be aware of the space requirements. Contact Dot with offers to help.

Junior Master Gardeners: Glenda Thompson happily reported that the garden at Hickory Flat Elementary has now become "more than a patch of weeds." The JMG's have been spreading decomposed granite as mulch and could certainly use some help with the heavy material. Email Glenda.

Policies and Procedures: In the absence of Chairman Gerry Slaughter, Glenda reported that the revised Policies and Procedures are now available on line. They are not to be considered set in stone and will be updated yearly as committees change. Paul would like for a booklet to be created and made available to each intern.

Arbor Day: Viviane Decker will again chair this committee and will send out an email asking for volunteers to work as soon as we are sure of the date, possibly February 19. Volunteers will help distribute trees at the downtown Canton gazebo, answer gardening questions and sell our books and Cobras.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Christmas Party Raffle Basket Income: After several suggestions, Pat Ball moved and Debbie Califano seconded donation of the \$183 generated by the Christmas party raffle baskets to the Cancer Society in honor of Roxanne Rutledge. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

GMGA Winter Conference: The Cherokee County Master Gardeners have received a letter from the state organization asking if we would be interested in sponsoring the Winter Conference of the GMGA in 2012. Essentially the state pays the expenses of running the event; it is up to the host organization to find venues, lodging, speakers, prizes and anything else associated with the event. There was some discussion, including whether we would rather host the Fall 2012 Conference. At the February meeting Gerald will ask for volunteers to form an exploratory committee.

Membership Survey: President-elect Clara Mae Van Brink is concerned both with the increasingly large size of Cherokee Master Gardeners and the dearth of younger members. She is planning a member questionnaire through our email with questions concerning full and part time work, interest in evening meetings, speakers desired and how members currently participate. A question was asked concerning bringing non-members as guests to meetings to see what we do. This is allowed. We also have Friends of Master Gardeners—a designation for those who want to participate in projects but have no vote.

Email: Clara Mae also asked that members read their emails—perhaps more often than they have been accustomed to doing. The younger generation is decidedly more electronics-prone, and to attract youth we will have to adjust. For contacting the entire organization, you can shortcut Yahoo by simply saving a set of emails encompassing the entire organization (groups cannot exceed 21), changing the content to your own and sending it back out. Please also be aware when receiving an email from the website: you are told *in red* to whom to reply. Those sending emails should be sure to put their names in red.

Power Point Use: Clara Mae has scheduled a Power Point class on Thursday, January 28th, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Extension for seminar presenters/administrators scheduled through April. There will be another later for remaining seminar presenters/administrators and other tutorials on demand. She has been reviewing our current library of Power Points: some need updating because best practices have changed; some are simply not as fresh as they could be. Presenters will have a choice: old Power Points will be retained and anyone wanting to use them may, but new versions may also be available. All presenters are asked to review their materials with an eye toward updating. If you want new material included, please give it to Clara Mae at least two weeks prior to your seminar.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Gerald adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jan 21 – Demo Garden Workday, 10 AM (cancelled if rain)
- Jan 23 – Seminar: Honey Bees and Native Pollinators, 10 AM, Woodstock Library
- Jan 23 – GMGA Winter Conference, Gainesville, Georgia
- Jan 30 – Seminar: Wonderful World of Roses, 10 AM, Hickory Flat Library

Feb 04 – Demo Garden Workday, 10 AM
Feb 06 – Seminar: Propagation from Seeds, Divisions and Cuttings, 10 AM, Senior Center
Feb 16 – Cherokee Interns: Midterm Exam and Lunch, Extension Office
Feb 16 – Monthly MG Meeting, 6:30 PM, Senior Center
Feb 18 – Demo Garden Workday, 10 AM
Feb 20 – Seminar: To Prune or Not to Prune, 10 AM, Senior Center
Feb 27 – Seminar: Beginning Vegetable Gardening, 10 AM, Ball Ground Library
Mar 23 – Labeling meeting for seed envelopes, 10 AM, Extension Conference Room
Mar 24 – Seed Separating Party, 10 AM Extension Conference Room

BIRTHDAYS

Interns: please email your birthdates to Joan McFather: jmcfather@hotmail.com if you haven't added them to the sign-in sheets at meetings. Thanks!

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Jan 04 | Donald Krueger | Feb 08 | Monte Bores |
| Jan 05 | Glenda Thompson | Feb 08 | Gerry Slaughter |
| Jan 10 | Marian Greenhill | Feb 10 | Valarie Downey |
| Jan 15 | Nell Gillespie | Feb 15 | Ellen Reagan |
| Jan 19 | Viviane Decker | Feb 15 | Larry Link |
| Jan 20 | Clara Mae Van Brink | Feb 18 | Pam Raines |
| Feb 03 | Marti Etchells | Feb 19 | Carol Jackson |
| Feb 04 | Janis Marshall-Kroen | Feb 19 | Thomas Walston |
| Feb 07 | Vickie Lindsey | | |