

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Canton Senior Services Center  
March 15, 2011**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011. The meeting was called to order by President Clara Mae Van Brink at 6:40 p.m. while members enjoyed a delicious potluck supper. Members present were President Clara Mae Van Brink, Immediate Past President Gerald Phillips, Vice President Ed Stumler, Secretary Joan McFather, Treasurer Diane Walton, Sue Allen, Pat Ball, Judie Bicknell, Russell Brannon, Mark Dady, Mariana Divita, Becky Dixon, Martha Etchells, Sandra Ferguson, Jean Garner, Nell Gillespie, Carol Gilson, James Gilson, Becky Griffin, Kim Hupman, Maurya Jones, Vickie Lindsey, Dalia Lowe, Shirley Lowe, Linda Lullie, Janis Marshall-Kroen, Dot Martin, Debbie Meadows, Carolyn Mills, Felix Morales, Carol Mumaw, Pam Raines, Gail Roos, Mary Ellen Roos, Carol Royball, Steve Scott, Mary Selden, Jane Shelnett, Lynn Sisson, Gerry Slaughter, Diane Smith, Mary Ann Szostak, Suzie Thomas, Katie Van Hiel, Maura Watson, Sandi White, and Marcia Winchester. County Extension Agent Paul Pugliese was unable to be present.

### **OFFICER REPORTS**

**President** Clara Mae Van Brink welcomed all, especially current class members Linda Connelly, Chris Davis and Nancy Green—noting with satisfaction that all three were wearing their name badges.

**Secretary** Joan McFather asked for and received approval of the February 2011 minutes as posted on line. There was no correspondence.

#### **Treasurer:**

- Diane Walton supplied copies of her **monthly report**. Cash on hand as of February 1, 2011, was \$9,181.40. Deposits in February: \$800.00, expenses in February: \$848.94, leaving a March 1 balance of \$9,132.46. [*See secretary's book for entire report.*] She also distributed copies of the 2011 Budget. [*See secretary's book for 2011 budget.*].
- Diane also displayed the **new apparel order form** that is available at each meeting. It lists approved shirts at prices ranging from \$28 to \$30 as well as an area where one can submit personal items for logo embroidery at a price of \$12. Orders will be accepted at every meeting; items ordered will be delivered at the next regular meeting.
- Diane will purchase 75 **bug charts** at \$5 each, plus shipping, to be sold for \$8 each. We will see how brisk sales are; further orders will take only two weeks. (On line this item sells for \$10.)
- An accurate **inventory** has become a necessity, since we are now autonomous. Please email Diane with a description of any Master Gardener items you possess and where they are stored. It would also be helpful if you would let Diane know about anything you regularly lend to Master Gardeners, so that we do not purchase items we can easily borrow.
- We fell short approximately \$50 of being able to cash in **receipts at Pikes** for a gift certificate. We currently use Marcia Winchester's Play in the Dirt Card (#226322 or give her phone number: 770-592-4022). Pikes tallies receipts every six months: they require

\$600 in purchases for a gift card worth \$25. Un-cashed receipts roll over into the next six-month period.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Field Trips:** Suzie Thomas announced that the Chattahoochee Nature Center will host the Georgia Daffodil Society's juried show on March 19. You may take daffodils early in the morning to be judged or bring them with you if you just want them identified. The Center is open to the public from 1:30 to 5 p.m., and the judging will take place between 2 and 3 p.m.

**Social:** Maurya Jones thanked those supplying door prizes. You can bring them either to her or to Dalia Lowe.

**Seminars:** In the absence of Karen Garland, Diane Smith reported that her Beginning Gardening seminar in Ball Ground hosted 58 participants at the BG Community Center! She thanked the Extension's Judy Haygood for being there to help her; President Clara Mae pointed out that we all should volunteer to help with seminars.

**Landscape Design Class:** Nell Gillespie reported that the classes went very smoothly and are now concluded. The last night saw a covered dish supper for participants, who then presented their designs to one of five professional landscapers for evaluation.

### Publicity:

- Sue Allen reminded everyone that the **Fairy Garden seminar** will be held at the Senior Center, not Rose Creek Library.
- Sue also thanked Linda Lullie for her work in having the **bookmarks** reprinted to reflect changes in seminar locations caused by the library system's new hours. She distributed packets of the bookmarks and also displayed the old ones now glued back to back, each stickered with our website, thus making them at least usable as a marketing tool.
- Sue encouraged everyone to supply her with **pictures** that she can use for magazine and newspaper coverage of our events. The same material should go to Historian Becky Dixon.

**Demonstration Garden:** This Thursday, March 17, the demo garden will be spring cleaned. The new butterfly garden's signs are installed: come and learn. Volunteers will pot hellebores.

**Plant Sale:** Our plant sale is scheduled for April 9. Those who indicated interest in working at it will get email instructions from Marcia. If you would like to help, contact Marcia. Set up will be on Friday from 12 noon until it is finished, whereupon helpers will be able to purchase plants. The sale will be Saturday from 10 to 2 p.m. Hostas and flat cardboard boxes would be appreciated.

**Seed Separating Party:** The date is March 23 at the Extension classroom. It will start at 10 a.m. and break for lunch at noon.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Thanksgiving Party:** Suzie Thomas brought a possible solution as to where we might have celebrations involving the entire group plus spouses and guests. The woman who creates events at

Marlow House (192 Church Street, Marietta) is in need of assistance in designing and planting the exterior of the facility—predominantly window boxes—plus pruning the roses. She would pay for the plant material we would need. She is willing for us to do this work in exchange for the use of the house for up to three events, excluding May and June, and Saturdays in October and December. The house will accommodate about 100; we could use her tables, chairs, linens and decorations and bring in our own caterer, if desired. Discussion followed, concerning parking, the use of alcohol, and whether points could be earned. There is parking at the church across the street; we assume alcohol is permitted; points would not be awarded since this would not be a teaching activity. There was expressed doubt that we should expend our efforts in Cobb County, even though the Cobb MGs are not interested in the project. Clara Mae stated that we would still volunteer at the Rock Barn, no matter whether we bartered its use or not and knowing that points will not be awarded there either. No action was taken concerning Marlow House; since it would not be a Master Gardener project, no proposal would be necessary, nor would any activity as proposed above be covered by Master Gardener insurance.

**GMGA 2012 Conference:** Dot Martin presented the steering committee's three top choices from the contest to provide a theme for the conference. Members then voted by ballot. The three choices were: Back to Our Cherokee Roots, Gardeners of the Earth, and The Garden's Circle of Life. [*By a narrow margin, The Garden's Circle of Life was the winner.*]

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Demo Garden Mulch:** Gerald Phillips announced that the Senior Center cannot afford to purchase mulch for the demo garden and Wood Tech has already distributed the free much it allocates each year (20 yards per recipient). Gerald proposed that the \$424 needed to purchase 40 yards, including delivery, be taken from the \$5,000 reserve fund itemized in the budget for such things as demo garden renovation as needed after the Senior Center expansion project is complete. Discussion ensued concerning the actual amount of mulch really needed at this point, leading to the decision that since the Senior Center gardens all have line items in the budget, the people in charge of the individual gardens could together decide how much mulch they needed and how they wanted to pay for it.

## **MYSTERY MASTER GARDENER**

Dot Martin was the Mystery Master Gardener, identified first by Gerald Phillips.

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

Use coffee filters to block dirt from draining out of your flower pots.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Marcia Winchester announced that on May 7 the **Georgia Native Plant Society** will be doing a garden tour at the homes of Debbie Meadows and Marcia Winchester from 10 to 6 p.m. If you are interested in attending, you must be a member. Any current members of GNPS are asked to contact Marcia if they would like greet tour guests at the two properties. For information: [www.gnps.org](http://www.gnps.org)

- There will be a plant sale by the **Georgia Native Plant Society** on April 30 at McFarlane Nature Park.
- **Cobb County Master Gardeners** will have their “Through the Garden Gate” tour of private MG gardens and plant sale on May 7. For information: [www.cobbmastergardeners.org](http://www.cobbmastergardeners.org)

## **DOOR PRIZES**

Door prizes were awarded by numbers found on individual agendas.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

March 19 – Seminar: Fairy Gardening. Senior Center, 10 a.m.

March 23 – Seed Separating Party: 10 a.m. Extension Classroom

April 7 – Intern Final Exam: Arrive 11 a.m. to set up lunch at 11:30 a.m. Contact Carol Gilson at [cfgilson@hotmail.com](mailto:cfgilson@hotmail.com) to volunteer

April 7 – Demo Garden Workday

April 9 – Seminar: Gardening for All Seasons—Spring, Hickory Flat Library, 10 a.m.

**April 19 – Monthly Meeting, First United Methodist Church, 10 a.m. Wear your name badge.**

April 21 – Demo Garden Workday

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

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

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Pat Ball – March 17

Suzie Thomas – March 24

Carol Royball – April 14

Liz Ellis-Porter – April 22

Dot Martin April 24

Betty Smith – April 26

Rachel Prakash – April 28