Cherokee County Master Gardeners
Regular Monthly Meeting
Cherokee County Senior Center
May 17, 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 6:32 p.m. Members present were President Clara Mae Van Brink, Immediate Past President Gerald Phillips, Secretary Joan McFather, Treasurer Diane Walton, Sue Allen, Lois Andresen, Pat Ball, Judie Bicknell, Monte Bores, Russell Brannon, Debbie Califano, Becky Dixon, Martha Etchells, Sandra Ferguson, Carol Gilson, James Gilson, Carol Jackson, Maurya Jones, Elizabeth Kelly, Lynn Knotts, Dalia Lowe, Shirley Lowe, Linda Lullie, Janis Marshall-Kroen, Dot Martin, Pam Raines, Mary Ellen Roos, Mary Selden, Gerry Slaughter, Diane Smith, Veronica Steffensmeier, Suzie Thomas, Glenda Thompson, Sandi White, and Sherry Wileman. County Extension Agent Paul Pugliese was also present.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Following a delightful covered dish social, including a cake in honor of Paul Pugliese, who will be moving June 1 to become the Extension Agent for Bartow County, Clara Mae Van Brink welcomed all. She then asked Joan McFather to introduce Joan Anderson, Canton Tree Commission, who presented a plaque to the Master Gardeners for their continuing help with Arbor Day. MG Committee chairman Jane Shelnutt was unable to be present.

Next Clara Mae called on Russell Brannon to introduce Zach White of Reinhardt University's Burgess Arboretum who presented to Paul Pugliese the sign for a Katsuratree planted in his honor at the arboretum. Paul expressed his thanks, and spoke briefly of his appreciation for the years of working with the Cherokee Master Gardeners.

On behalf of the Interact Club of Cherokee County, Paul presented to the Master Gardeners a Certificate of Appreciation for our continued support to 4H.

Paul also announced that several interns have achieved their hours—none was present. And he announced the members achieving Lifetime status, awarding certificates and pins to those present. New Lifetime members are: Betty Adams, Mechelle Baardson, Mariana Divita, Becky Griffin, Thomas Dorn, Susan Franklin, Karen Garland, Joan McFather, Debbie Meadows, Dawn Perlotto, Liz Ellis-Porter, Linda Robbins, Mary Ellen Roos, Martha Ann Slatton, Mary Ann Szostak, and Maurya Watson.

Finally Paul issues another 40 Gallon Challenge. The program has now spread throughout the southeastern United States. He urged everyone to take the pledge again—online this time. Materials are available to support the program—stickers, bookmarks, posters.

Clara Mae reminded everyone to sign a card of thanks to Barbara Jacoby for her goodness to us while she was Managing Editor of the *Cherokee Tribune.*

PROGRAM

Clara Mae introduced a representative from Ladyslipper Rare Plant Nursery, who gave a program on planting hanging baskets and other containers. Key talking points were: location of planter, sunlight, planter materials, soil, size of plants, watering, selection of plants, compatibility, color coordination, design, maintenance and pruning.

Secretary Joan McFather asked for and received approval of the April 2011 minutes as posted on line. There was no correspondence. She reminded everyone to sign in.

Treasurer: Diane Walton supplied copies of her **monthly report**. Cash on hand as of April 1, 2011, was $8,795.36. Deposits in April: $2,253.55, expenses in April: $1,111.62, debit to money market account: $100.00, leaving a May1 balance in the operating account of $9,837.29. The money market account balance is $300.05. [*See secretary's book for entire report.*]

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Plant Clinics: Carol Jackson noted that the clinics are about all staffed. If you are interested in the Going Green program, contact her. [*jjacksonjc@aol.com*]

Junior Master Gardeners: Glenda Thompson reported that the JMG programs were winding down. After extensive research it has been determined the name "Junior Master Gardeners" is actually the property of a Texas A&M program not affiliated with the national Master Gardeners as we know it. Therefore, monies collected from students in our local JMG programs should remain at their respective schools, not comingled with ours. If you are interested in starting such a program at another school, contact Glenda. [*Thompson Kelly@bellsouth.net*]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

***Gardening with the Masters*:** Diane reported that we are almost out of copies. There will be a committee meeting in June concerning revision of the book. Contact her if you are interested in being on the committee. [*waltond@bellsouth.net*]

Cobras: We are also out of Cobras. After discussion Sandi White moved and Suzie Thomas seconded buying 50 more. The motion carried. Long-handled Cobras will cost around $30.00—a bit more, factoring in shipping. A show of hands indicated that enough members alone would buy them. Diane began circulating a sign up sheet to get an indication of how many to order. Contact her directly if you want one.

GMGA Report District Director Russell Brannon reported that a number of our members attended the conference in Rome. He estimated that there were approximately 200 in total attendance and said that we had collected a number of good ideas toward staging our own conference in 2012.

NEW BUSINESS

Fundraiser Monte Bores asked to table the project she had planned to introduce, and it was tabled.

GMGA Scholarship: Russell announced that the state Master Gardeners organization is raising $25,000 to earmark for scholarships that they will award only after the entire amount is raised. They have collected about $5,000 and are asking for donations. This item was tabled.

Thanksgiving Party: After discussion, Sandi White moved and Linda Lullie seconded having a

Thanksgiving party at the Marlow House in Marietta. (A group did go and do the work designing and planting the exterior: see March minutes.) The motion carried with one opposed. Gerry Slaughter reminded us that the By-Laws require us to present a proposed new slate of officers at the November meeting. It was agreed that we would continue to have a regular November meeting and no December meeting. Mary Selden moved that a party be held at Marlow House on Saturday, November 12; Dalia Lowe-Lavender seconded, and the motion carried. The Social Committee will take care of arrangements.

Christmas Cookie Swap: By general consensus it was decided not to have the proposed cookie swap in December.

Chamber of Commerce: Gerald Phillips discussed the advantages of belonging to the Chamber in relation to the upcoming GMGA Conference here in 2012. Joan McFather added the advantages in general, stating that we could join at the non-profit level for $137.50. Diane Walton moved and Mary Ellen Roos seconded joining the Chamber, the motion carried and Clara Mae asked Joan to deal with the paperwork.

Demonstration Garden: Judie Bicknell reported for Marcia Winchester a workday Thursday, May 19 at 10 a.m. Gerald suggested all heads of individual gardens be there, as the sprinkler system would be worked on.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Master Gardener Barbecue:** May 21st, 6 p.m. at the Van Brinks'
- **Plant Swap:** May 26th at Debbie Meadows' home, 11 a.m. Bring a covered dish and 2 non-aggressive plants.
- **Farm-to-School Meeting:** Thursday, May 19th, 4 to 6 p.m. at Cherokee County Schools Nutrition offices, 135 Mountain Brook Drive in Building F, Holly Springs. Everyone is welcome.
- **Cherokee Farm-to-School Seminars** for "lunch ladies," at area farms, Thursday, June 2, from 9 to 1 p.m. and Friday, June 3, from 9 to 12 noon. This is an 'In Service' day for the group, so they will be getting paid to be there. Thursday all will be served lunch. Friday will be a breakfast from Chick-Fil-A.
    - * Ross Berry Farm & Apiary, Union Hill: bees, honey production, chef demo, garden and berry patch – 30 attendees
    - * Rockin' S Farm, Free Home: vegetable gardens, berries, vineyard, chickens, cowboy cooking, chef demo – 50 attendees
    - *Sweetwater Growers, NE Cherokee near Sweetwater Campground off Hwy. 20: hydroponic herbs and microgreens, infused oil bottling, chef demo. Would like to have someone to discuss growing herbs in raised beds or containers if possible – 30-50 attendees
    - * Buckeye Creek Farm: vegetable garden, fruit trees, berries, pond (Friday fishing) corn grinding (Thursday), 2 chef demos, table for Farm Bureau, Georgia Organics & Royal Foods Farm-to-School on Thursday only. Any subject would be great. 150-175 attendees. Would like to have 2 or 3 people if possible.
- **Compost Bin:** Gerald announced that an Eagle Scout has taken on the project of building a compost bin near the Senior Center community garden in July. It will be available for seminar demonstrations.

MYSTERY MASTER GARDENER this month is Linda Lullie, first identified by Monte Bores.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 19 – Demo Garden workday, 10-3 p.m.
May 21 – Seminar: How to Garden Frugally at Hickory Flat Library, 10 a.m.
June 2 – Demo Garden workday, 10-3 p.m.
June 11 – Seminar: Composting, Vermiculture & Growing Mushrooms, at Senior Center, 10 a.m.
June 16 – Demo Garden workday, 10-3 p.m.
June 21 – Regular monthly meeting, Merrily's Gardens, 10-1 p.m. Covered dish lunch.
June 25 – Seminar: Pollinators Are Our Friends, Senior Center, 10 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

June 2 – Sue Allen
June 6 – Karen Garland
June 9 – Pat Tanner
June 16 – Carolyn Mills
June 21 – Tim Luxemburger
June 24 – Margit Woods
June 30 – Bonnie Westbrook